LIBERIA.

A republic founded by black men, reared by black men, maintained by black men, and which holds out to our hope the brightest prospects.—HENRY CLAY.

BULLETIN No. 8. FEBRUARY, 1896.

ISSUED BY THE

AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

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WASHINGTON, D C.

COLONIZATION BUILDING, 450 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE.

LIBERIA.

BULLETIN NO. 8. FEBRUARY, 1896.

THE SEVENTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY.

EMIGRATION.

During the past year the American Colonization Society has assisted four emigrants to Liberia: Mr. Sidney H. Arnett, aged 32 years, waiter in a hotel, from Rock Ledge, Florida, March 30, 1895; Miss Hattie Gibson, aged 30 years, school teacher, from Martinsburg, West Virginia, October 26, 1895; Mr. Charles B. Dunbar, aged 20 years, school teacher, from Wilmington, Delaware, October 26, 1895; and Mr. A. J. Cross, aged 22 years, farmer, from Wadley, Georgia, December 21, 1895. In each of these cases the Society furnished only a passage by steamer from New York by way of Liverpool, the emigrants paying their own expenses to New York and providing for themselves after their arrival in Liberia.

The Society has definite information of 217 emigrants who have gone from this country to Liberia during the past year and wholly paid their own way. Others have probably gone who have not been noticed, and a large number have corresponded with the Society who are now making arrangements to emigrate during the coming year, paying the whole or the greater part of their expenses.

Seventy-four years ago this Society sent out its first party of colonists; each year since it has sent out emigrants to Liberia. Those reported for the past year make a total of 16,428, exclusive of 5,722 recaptured Africans which it enabled the Government of the United States to settle in Liberia, or a total of 22,150 persons whom the Society has assisted in finding homes in Liberia.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

During the year the Society has edited and published two Bulletins, Nos. 6 and 7, containing the latest news obtain-

able from Liberia, important information about Africa, and valuable articles relating to the Negro problem in the United States and elsewhere. Three thousand copies of these Bulletins have been distributed, many of them in response to special calls at home and abroad. The exchange list now includes the very best African publications in Europe and the principal newspapers published on the west coast of Africa. In reply to the letters received daily at this office from Negroes in the United States desiring to emigrate to Liberia and seeking information on the subject these Bulletins are most useful, and they are supplemented by letters giving the more specific information called for in each case.

EDUCATION.

That the intelligence and virtue of a people are the only foundations on which a republican form of government can rest securely, and without which no people under any form of government can be prosperous and progressive goes without saying. The future of Liberia depends, first, upon the education which she gives to her youth and, second, upon the character of the immigrants which she receives, largely from the United States. This Society is profoundly interested in both and is endeavoring to aid along both lines.

Mr. Julius C. Stevens, our agent in Liberia, has devoted most of his time during the past year to educational work, for which he has many excellent qualifications.

He has continued his visitations to the schools, both public and private; consulted with teachers, made suggestions for improvements in accommodations, furnishing of school-rooms, appliances, text-books, and methods of teaching; has given instructive and stimulating talks to schools and gatherings of parents and others whom he has interested in the importance of education.

The plan of furnishing a better class of school text-books, purchased by the Society in the United States at the lowest wholesale prices and sold through its Liberian agent at actual cost, has already been successful and promises the most gratifying results in the future. The people of Liberia appreciate the favor, and are fast purchasing at a low price a better class and better supply of school text-books for the use of their children

In a recent report to this Society Mr. Stevens says:

"The free public schools of Liberia are supported by part of the general revenue arising from customs dues, licenses, and other taxes. Within the last few years the government has had great additional expenses in carrying on the Cape Palmas war, purchasing two new gunboats, &c., and it has been impossible to afford the same school facilities as existed before the war. Now that all is quiet, attention is again returning to educational interests, and the people are discussing the best means of putting the common schools on a firmer basis. An internal land and poll tax especially for schools is suggested and better supervision and local subcontrol. The legislature will be asked to revise and amend the school law, so that the maintenance of the schools and the duties of officers will be better understood and more efficacious."

The Hall School at Cape Palmas, maintained by the income of a fund in the custody of this Society, has been satisfactorily conducted during the past year, as shown by the detailed reports of the principal, received through the secretary and treasurer of the local board of trustees at the close of each half-yearly term. The whole number of pupils enrolled in this school during the last year reported was 71. The average number on the roll was 65, of which 11 were children of native African parents. Some new and modern text-books have been introduced into the school, and the course of study has been improved.

Mr. Stevens has visited All Saints' Hall at Beulah, thoroughly investigated affairs there, and made a full and satisfactory report to this Society. He found that the school had been broken up when Miss Scott abandoned her enterprise four or five years ago, most of the material for the main building sent out from this country had been sold or become useless for want of proper protection, and the cleared fields on which cultivation had been commenced were fast being covered with bush. The proceeds of the sales had been loaned to or were in the hands of different individuals, and, in accordance with his instructions, he took steps to collect the same for transmittal to this Society. The sum total found by him was $1,025.50, of which he has collected and forwarded to this Society up to date $685.48. He reports that the 200 acres of land at Beulah, now belonging to this Society as the Trustees of All Saints' Hall, are easily accessible,

elevated, well watered, very fertile, and in all respects a most desirable site for an industrial school and model Liberian farm.

The Executive Committee has asked the Liberian government to make an additional grant of 1,000 acres of land contiguous to the 200 acres at Beulah, so that the entire All Saints' Hall tract shall be 1,200 acres, and is also making diligent inquiry for a suitable man to place in charge of the All Saints' Hall industrial project.

For improving the common schools of Liberia the committee is also diligently maturing other plans, all of which look to helping her to help herself, the only kind of assistance that can bring satisfactory and lasting results.

In 1888 this Society received $1,000, a legacy of the late Mr. John West Mason, of Newark, Illinois, as a trust fund "to be invested, with or without additions, until the income thence arising shall be sufficient to meet the expenses of a pious young man of color while being educated to preach the Gospel among the heathen of Africa, * * * said income to bear the name of Theodore Lewis Mason, M. D., late of Brooklyn, N. Y., and brother of said testator." Since that date the fund has been invested and the income received from it now amounts to $335.

Gammon Theological Seminary, at Atlanta, Georgia, is an institution founded for the education of "pious young men of color," has able officers and teachers, is well equipped for its work, and is the only institution in this country that in its course of study makes a specialty of the study of Africa—its geography, history, opportunities, needs, and the Negro race. It holds in trust a large fund, named "The Stewart Missionary Foundation for Africa," which was given for this specific purpose, and is doing most efficient work. It is a leading purpose of this institution to prepare colored youth for intelligent and effective missionary work in Africa.

This Society has entered into an agreement with Gammon Theological Seminary to provide a scholarship, to be named "The Theodore Lewis Mason, M. D., Scholarship," in that institution, in consideration of the receipt of the annual income of "The Theodore Lewis Mason, M. D., Fund." A worthy student is now receiving the benefit of this legacy, and it is expected that this arrangement for realizing the noble purpose of the donor of the fund will be permanent.

NEW PROJECT.

The colonization of Liberia hitherto has followed the usual course of early settlements in all new countries, and immigrants have taken up the lands near the seashore and the tidewater creeks and rivers. The first settlers of a country find the water their ready-made highway for travel and transportation. The civilized portion of Liberia's population today is limited to a narrow strip of country along the Atlantic coast, extending back not farther than from five to fifteen miles, with the exception of the settlements on both sides of the St. Paul river, which reach up to the first rapids, some twenty or twenty-five miles from its mouth. Here at the head of navigation, on its left bank, is a small settlement called White Plains, which marks the boundary of the farthest advance of civilization toward the interior.

Prof. O. F. Cook, an enterprising young American scientist, under the auspices of the New York State Colonization Society, landed in Liberia in December, 1891, and has devoted his time since that date to exploring the country and investigating the social, industrial, and other economic conditions of the people. He has recently made a report to the New York Society, in which he attributes the failure on the part of the Liberians to make the progress expected from them in part to the fact that most of the colonists were wholly illiterate and emigrated from the slave States of America, carrying with them only the civilization which they had attained to as slaves in the section of country from which they came. With the dominant class in their old homes the *laissez faire* principle largely prevailed, and labor was to be performed by somebody else; hence in their new freedom and independence they thought the proper thing to do was to assume the rôle of their old masters in the Southern States and have the natives do the work. In their changed situation labor was looked upon as a necessary evil, to be avoided as much as possible.

There is without doubt much truth in Professor Cook's statement, and when we add to that the fact that the Liberians have been separated from the rest of the civilized world by several thousand miles of ocean, with little of even commercial communication, we should not be greatly surprised that the little

Republic has not kept step with the progress of the last half of the nineteenth century in more highly favored lands.

Professor Cook is of the opinion that the people and the country need only a more intelligent and energetic development in order to realize the brightest hopes and expectations of the founders of Liberia. He has obtained from the Liberian government a grant to the New York Society of 1,000 acres of land in the immediate vicinity of Mount Coffee, some eight or ten miles above White Plains, at the head of navigation on the St. Paul river, and proposes to make of this land a model farm, more especially for the cultivation of coffee. Here also he will introduce horses, oxen, and other domestic animals, hitherto found seldom if at all in Liberia. He has already cleared about 100 acres of this land, built a small house, planted several thousand scions for a coffee grove, and furnished some animals. He intends also to make this farm to some extent a large industrial school for the benefit of the surrounding country.

It is now proposed to construct a good wagon road from White Plains to Mount Coffee and begin enterprising settlements all along the road, with coffee as the leading industry in this higher and more healthful region of country.

The New York Colonization Society and this Society have agreed to undertake this work jointly, under the superintendence of Professor Cook, at an estimated cost of about $5,000. This Society has asked the Liberian government for a grant of the land on each side of the proposed road to the depth of half a mile, and on this land it is its intention to make new settlements, improve the present methods of raising coffee and other products adapted to the climate, introduce beasts of burden and other domestic animals, better methods of cultivating the land, and better facilities for travel and transportation.

The more intelligent class of Negroes now emigrating from this country to Liberia and largely paying their own way have had thirty years of freedom, with all the beneficent training and experience in self-reliance and necessitated industry which these years have brought to them. They are better qualified for the settlement of a new country than were a large majority of those who at an earlier day went out direct from an environment of slavery, and we may reasonably expect this improvement in the character of immigrants to be continued in the future.

THE UNDEVELOPED WEALTH OF AFRICA.

England, France, Germany, Portugal, Italy, and Spain are engaged in a fierce scramble for the last square foot of Africa, not so much for the sake of enlarged domain and increased political power as for the unmeasured wealth which all parts of that great continent holds out to them. While in the not distant future this will consist largely in its immense forests of the most useful and valuable woods and, owing to its extent in latitude and peculiar physical features, the great variety of the products of its generous soil, including the chief staples of commerce—wheat in its northern and southern extremities, coffee, cotton, sugar, rice, India rubber in its more tropical regions—just now the rapid increase in the output of gold is especially attracting the attention of the world.

For centuries it had been believed that Africa was the favorite depository of this most precious metal, and her "golden sands" have figured in song and story. The natives by the crude methods known to them have found it in greater or less quantities, worked it into personal ornaments or bartered it to Europeans for glass beads, brass wire, and rum. So large a traffic in gold was carried on along an extensive seaboard on the Gulf of Guinea, now owned by England, that it was named the "Gold Coast." The latest edition of Stanford's "Compendium of Geography," a high authority, says: "The total yield of the 'Gold Coast' since the arrival of the Europeans, 1471, has been estimated at from £600,000,000 to £700,000,000."

A scientific investigation of African gold mines has up to this time been made only in a small portion of the southern part of the continent, and the working of these mines with modern methods and appliances was commenced within the last ten years.

The official reports of the director of the United States Mint give the output of gold in Africa for five years as follows:

1890	$9,887,000
1891	15,742,400 (increase 59.2 + per cent.)
1892	24,232,000 (increase 53.9 + per cent.)
1893	28,943,500 (increase 19.4 + per cent.)
1894	40,271,000 (increase 28.1 + per cent.)
Increase, 1890 to 1894	307.3 + per cent.

The well-known American mining engineer, Mr. John Hays Hammond, now employed in the Transvaal, says: "It is obviously impossible to make an approximate estimate, but I would regard as well within the bounds of conservatism the prediction that the annual output of the Witwatersrand district before the end of the present century will exceed £20,000,000 sterling ($100,000,000) worth of gold."

MODERN METHODS OF TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION IN AFRICA.

The steamboats now plying on the great lakes and all the navigable rivers of Africa are numbered by hundreds, and the railroads already in operation, under construction, and projected indicate unmistakably how rapidly the rich resources of that continent are to be developed and appropriated by intelligent and progressive enterprise.

There are now more than 2,000 miles of railroad in the French possessions on the Mediterranean. The principal trunk line extends from Oran to Tunis, with branches, either completed or in progress, to all the large seaports on the north, and three lateral lines advancing across the plateau to the southern oases, one of which will not be completed until it has been carried over a route already surveyed across the Sahara to Timbuctoo, the basin of the Niger, the fertile region of the Sudan, the valley of the Senegal, and an Atlantic port near its mouth.

Egypt has a system of railroads ramifying the delta and extending up the Nile to the Nubian frontier, aggregating a total of more than 1,200 miles.

There are three great systems of railroads starting from seaports of Cape Colony, in South Africa, the trunk lines of which, with their interlacing branches, are known as the "Western," "Midland," and "Eastern." At the end of 1893 they had a total of 2,253 miles open and in regular operation, and great progress has been made since that date.

The Western, commencing at Cape Town, runs through Kimberly, celebrated for its diamond fields, and Vryburg to Mafeking and beyond, on its way to Buluwayo, recently the capital of the famous African king, Lobengula, but already become, as if by the touch of a magician's wand, a flourishing settlement of Great Britain. The Midland has its southern terminus at Port Eliza-

beth, and runs through Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, Johannesburg, the site of the great Witwatersrand and other gold mines in the South African Republic, to Pretoria, its capital. The Eastern has its southern terminus at East London.

On the east coast farther north Natal already has more than 400 miles of railway open, and still farther north a line, starting from Delagoa bay, in Portuguese territory, is well on its way to Pretoria, the capital of the South African Republic.

On the Congo river, of the railway now being constructed from Matadi, the farthest inland port accessible to ocean steamers, to Leopoldville, on Stanley Pool above the falls, a distance of about 250 miles, some 90 miles of road over the most difficult part of the route have been constructed, and the work on the rest of the line is being pushed forward for an early completion, probably within three years.

Great Britain has also commenced an important railway from Mombassa, on the east coast, to Lake Victoria and Uganda; and on the west coast a corps of engineers are now surveying a route from Free Town, Sierra Leone to the hinterlands of that colony, and the building of the road at an early day is assured. Steps are also being taken for the construction of a road from Lagos, on the Gulf of Guinea, to the interior.

It will thus be seen that provisions for modern means of travel and transportation over all parts of the great continent have been well commenced and are rapidly progressing. Already more than 6,000 miles of railway are open. The Egyptian line, running up the Nile toward the south as far as Nubia, and the South African lines, running toward the north beyond Pretoria, are destined to meet and be united; and it may safely be predicted that within the next generation the American tourist will be able to take his palatial car at Alexandria, in Egypt, in the north temperate zone, be carried up the Nile to its source among the great lakes of the central plateau, by the grand Victoria Falls of the Zambesi, Johannesburg, having the largest and richest gold mines of the world, Kimberly, with its matchless diamond fields, and after a delightful ten days' journey of more than 5,000 miles, through the entire length and very heart of the old continent of Africa, be landed at Cape Town, in the south temperate zone.

CONCLUSION.

Seventy-nine years have come and gone since a little company of fifty patriots and philanthropists met in this capital city and organized the American Colonization Society. On that original roll, preserved in the archives of the Society, are the signatures of statesmen, divines, and philanthropists holding the highest places in American history. They long since passed away, leaving ample and unmistakable record of what they said and did.

The simple clause of their charter, "the colonization, with their own consent, in Africa of the free people of color residing in the United States," included a fourfold purpose: first, to do away with slavery in the United States; second, to aid in putting an end to the foreign slave trade; third, to establish a place of refuge for slaves recaptured on the high seas or elsewhere after the foreign slave trade had been declared piracy; and, fourth, to establish an independent Negro nationality in Africa which, in the language of the constitution of Liberia, should "provide a home for the dispersed and oppressed children of Africa and regenerate and enlighten that benighted continent."

The first three of these grand purposes were already realized when slavery in the United States was abolished, and it were an easy task to show the important part which the Society had in the accomplishment of each.

The execution of the fourth purpose was well commenced in the establishment of the independent Republic of Liberia, which still holds out a promise of the ultimate achievement of the beneficent purpose of its founders and calls for the services of this Society in its behalf.

In response to this call the Society continues its labors. It endeavors to strengthen Liberia, especially by aiding its educational work and by officiating as a bureau of information for the benefit of Liberia and the thousands of Negroes in the United States who, not contented with their present condition and future prospects, desire to emigrate to that country.

The Society recognizes the facts of race and the great part, in the order of Providence, which they have played in the evolution of nations and the progress of civilization, and it believes that it can do good service to the Negro race in both this country and Africa by continuing to encourage and assist the efforts to

maintain and build up an independent, enlightened, and Christian Negro nationality in Africa.

Civilization has its units of value of different orders, of which race is one that demands recognition in all successful efforts to improve the condition of our fellow-men. This principle does not conflict with the broader principle of the "common brotherhood of man," but is subordinate to it, and its recognition only takes note of the actual racial differences existing in the brotherhood of man and wisely regulates action accordingly.

The student of the past knows how largely racial characteristics have entered into the history of every nation that has ever existed. The Negro is bound to his race by a law of Providence, and all efforts to ignore that bond spring from selfish, isolated individualism or ignorance and must end in disappointment.

That philosophical and sagacious statesman, Lord Beaconsfield, made Baron Sergius say to Endymion, the hero of his story:

"No man will treat with indifference the principle of race. It is the key of history; and why history is often so confused is that it has been written by men who were ignorant of this principle and all the knowledge it involves. As one who may become a statesman and assist in governing mankind, it is necessary that you should not be insensible to it; whether you encounter its influence in communities or in individuals, its qualities must ever be taken into account. * * * Language and religion do not make a race; there is only one thing which makes a race and that is blood."

Of late we have heard much about civil equality without social equality; but the civil equality of two distinct races, counted by millions, in the same country, without actual or possible social equality, if it ever come, will be an anomaly, having no precedent in all history; and there is abundant evidence on every hand that one generation of experiment in this country has produced results far from being satisfactory to either race. Civil equality in its full reality must have its foundations far deeper than legal phrases in constitutions and statutes; it rests securely only in the hearts and public sentiment of a homogeneous people.

The Hon. J. L. M. Curry, widely known as scholar, statesman, educator, and the general agent for the distribution of those

magnificent bequests to education in the South, "The Peabody Fund" and "The Slater Fund," than whom no man in this country has a more thorough knowledge of the so-called "Negro problem," knowledge derived largely from widely extended personal contact and observation, in a paper recently published, says:

"Much has been written of the evolution of man, of human society, and history shows marvelous progress in some races, in some countries, in the bettering of habits and institutions, but this progress is not found in any equal degree in the Negro race in his native land. What has occurred in the United States has been from external causes. Usually human development has come from voluntary energy, from self-evolved organizations of higher and higher efficiency, from conditions which are principally the handiwork of man himself. With the Negro, whatever progress has marked his life as a race in this country has come from without. The great ethical and political revolutions of enlightened nations, through the efforts of successive generations, have not been seen in his history."

In Liberia, with all its favorable opportunities and great possibilities, handicapped by no other dominant race, the Negro has a possibility to demonstrate to the world that he has the capacity for that "human development which has usually come from voluntary energy, from self-evolved organizations of higher and higher efficiency, from conditions which are principally the handiwork of man himself," and which has made the peoples and governments of the world what they are today. Can a wiser thing be done by the foremost of the race than to make the most of this possibility?

The Japanese, now the marvel and admiration of the world, a generation ago were considered little better than barbarians. They have developed as a race and a nationality, and, while freely availing themselves of the advantages offered to them by the highest civilization of other races and nations, their evolution has been distinctively along their own racial lines, and their nationality has been guarded and strengthened with the most jealous care. It has been as a race and nation, not as separate individuals, that they have won the high respect and position now so happily accorded to them.

The Republic of Liberia is about the only portion of Africa which the Negro can call his own, where he stands erect and bows to no other race as master. It is true that it is still little and weak, but in its location, climate, soil, and natural productions it is conceded by all intelligent observers and writers to be the most eligible part of the whole West Coast of Africa, and there is unlimited room for enlarging its borders as fast as its people and government prove themselves worthy to occupy, develop, and rule over more territory. Without any foreign governmental protection or assistance it has for a period of forty-nine years maintained an independent government, which on terms of equality has been fully recognized and dealt with by the other members of the family of nations, and in all future wisely directed efforts which the Negro may make to build up a great, enlightened, progressive, Christian nationality there in Africa he will have the hearty sympathy and support of other races and nations.

Appointment of Dr. Blyden as Political Officer of Lagos. —It has recently been decided to make an important appointment in connection with the Government at Lagos. For some time past the necessity has been recognized of having a thoroughly qualified and suitable Political Officer in the interior of the colony. The difficulty has, however, always been whom to select for such an office. After considerable trouble, a gentleman in every way suitable, and also of some reputation, has been prevailed upon to accept the office. This gentleman is Dr. Blyden, of Liberia, who is one of the most scholarly and intelligent natives of modern times. Dr. Blyden is at present in England, but will shortly return to the coast and assume his new duties. The idea of appointing Dr. Blyden is believed to have emanated from Sir Gilbert Carter, who is ever anxious to further the interests of this colony, and from an educational point of view—for the education of the natives will not be the least important part of his duties—no better appointment could have been made. Such an appointment is the beginning of a new era in the history of the colony of Lagos, which is forging ahead and becoming a close rival of the Gold Coast colony as regards trade importance.—*European Mail.*

THE CONGO STATE: ITS PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS.

Congo et Belgique (à propos de l'exposition d'Anvers). Par le Lieutenant Lemaire, ch. Bruxelles, Imprimerie Scientifique, 1894.

Au Congo: Comment les noirs travaillent. Bruxelles, Imprimerie Scientifique, 1895.

Station d'Equateurville: Observations météorologiques. Faites du 15 Avril, 1891, au 31 Décembre, 1892. Par Lieutenant Lemaire, ch. Bruxelles, Société Générale d'Imprimerie.

In 1876, when Stanley began his remarkable journey across the continent from Zanzibar to the mouth of the Congo, the virgin territory of that valley figured upon our maps under the rubric "country unknown."

It would be hardly correct to say that the country is now *known;* far from it; but that it is *better known* is due to the energy, ability, and administrative capacity of the Belgians, who share with their foster-brothers, the French, Dutch, and Germans, the international habits of economy, thrift, industry, and cleanliness, which result in a good, enlightened, and advanced administration of governmental affairs and enable them, among primitive and backward peoples of diverse origin, culture, and religions, to make themselves at least economically and socially useful and appreciated.

It may be truthfully said that wherever the Frenchman, the Netherlander, and the German have gone, in Asia or Africa, America or Polynesia, they have brought order out of chaos and literally made the desert to blossom. In the art of colonization they are the rivals of our English race, and evidently in that peaceful rivalry Belgium is to take a distinguished place.

African development under the English, French, or German régime presents a striking contrast to either the Portuguese, Spanish, or Italian, and the Portuguese occupation, which has existed for four hundred years, has lamentably failed to produce any commensurate results, commercial or social.

"Everywhere we encounter the vestiges of the old plantations. Inhambane, Quilimane, Mozambique astonish the traveler by their substantial buildings, but the life which once enlivened them is no more. The Portuguese administrators make the grave mistake of regarding with suspicion all Europeans settling

upon their territory. The colony of Mozambique was formerly better occupied than it is today, and the English town of Buluwayo, in Matabeleland, which counts but a few months existence, already surpasses in development Portuguese Inhambane, which in a life of three hundred years has had its day of great commercial splendor." (L'Afrique australe et la colonisation néerlandaise, par M. le Dr. Ivens.)

The Palais Congolais at the Antwerp Exposition was in itself a liberal education to the average European not only as to the wonderful natural products of the equatorial region, but also in its arts, its industries, its climate, its languages, its religions, and its people. To the student of ethnology, of philology, of zoölogy, and entomology, as well as to the merchant and manufacturer, it suggested the enormous wealth of virgin material which still lies waiting the touch of modern scientific and commercial enterprise.

Lieutenant Lemaire mentions among the natural products of the Congo region twenty-five valuable woods which in density and strength are superior to those we ordinarily employ in our industries.

Caoutchouc, gutta-percha, and gum copal abound, and tobacco, kola, coffee, cocoa, and many other plants, medicinal and useful, flourish, in company with a wonderful variety of edible fruits and vegetables. Various textiles, including jute and cotton of a superior fibre, are everywhere abundant, and in the *buckle* of the Congo iron and copper are also in evidence. The habitat of the kola, *Sterculia acuminata*, is between 5 degrees south and 10 degrees north latitude. It is not generally known here, where the plant is a comparative stranger, that the "true" kola is the female, and that the "false" kola, the male, does not possess the virtues of the *sterculia*.

"The tobaccos of the Congo are considered excellent not only for cutting but also for cigar-making; the leaves are very flexible, and the cigars made with these tobaccos leave nothing to be desired from the point of view of quality and combustion. Those of the Upper Congo are, however, superior to those of the lower." (Le Fumeur, No. 106, D. Maritz.)

With great ingenuousness, which may well be imitated in other quarters, Lieutenant Lemaire states that the greater part of the Free State, so called, is not adapted to European coloniza-

tion. In limited regions like the elevated plateau south of the Katanga, suitable conditions for a prolonged occupation may be found; but, generally speaking, the province of the European in these low regions will be to govern wisely and to direct the agricultural and commercial operations of the natives.

M. Lemaire would divide the Negro race into two great classes. In the first, he places the Negroes of the two Americas and the West Coast of Africa, who are treated as degraded, contemptible inferiors, good to suffer and to die at work; and in the second, those who have not until recently been in contact with Europeans.

He finds that physically the African races that have come under his observation, which have had no intercourse with Europeans and European habits, are, when compared with the coast races who have had such contact, marvelously robust. The effect of pagan and Christian civilization upon primitive races is very remarkably differentiated.

In our train follow the dealers (nominally Christian), who debauch the natives with rum and poisonous gin and produce mental, moral, and physical degeneration. Savage as he is, the native African has naturally excellent mental ability, a good physique, and a code of morals which in practice is superior to the one taught by too many Europeans. In the train of Islam, on the contrary, we find bigotry and polygamy, it is true, but industrial habits, thrift, and an added dignity of carriage and character. The hope from Islamism is that, as its doctrine does not command polygamy and slavery, but only permits them, the day may arrive when, in obedience to the demands of a higher culture, they may disappear.

Whatever truth there may be in the observation of M. Lemaire, the Krous (Krus) of the West Coast certainly form a remarkable exception. From what we know of the native race, it may be classed among the most active and vigorous, having, in the picturesque language of M. Lemaire, the head of a Silenus upon the body of an Antinous. Without them the commerce of the Europeans on the Guinea coast would be greatly embarrassed, as they are the sailors and stevedores of the region.

The Krous (Krus) also furnish a remarkable contradiction of the popular impression that the men of warm countries are all incurably lazy. Naturally the native of the tropics does not

work with the vigor of his brother of the temperate zone ; neithef does Dame Nature, fortunately, demand it. The intense heat or the sun at mid-day drives even the Negro to the shade and effectually handicaps the European. Physical energy and activity in Africa, as elsewhere, depend upon climatic conditions, and that of the Krus is no doubt due to their location upon the coast and their healthful occupation upon the sea.

The technic capacity of the interior African tribes would appear, from what is known of it, to be superior to that of the North American Indian. The blacksmiths of Monangoyo-Ouroua are physically athletic and make fine arms and tools of iron and copper and furnish hatchets for the whole region. Upon the low plains of the Loufira we find irrigation works and among the workers brickmakers, masons, carpenters, and joiners.

Sir H. Johnston speaks in high terms of the intelligence and teachableness of the Yaos, the natives of Nyasaland, notably of the facility with which they become excellent printers, the British Central African *Gazette* being printed by African workmen.

The Makololos of the Shiré are careful cultivators, basket-makers, blacksmiths, weavers, and boatmen. Upon the Congo the Negro makes an excellent stoker and assistant engineer. Naturally and instinctively a good soldier and fighter, he is also a clever trader, whom Stanley is willing to put against all the Jews, Christians, or Parsees of the universe. The Byanzis or Batékès of the lower Congo in the field of chicanery and sharp trading are without rivals.

On the Congo, as elsewhere, the markets are a great social institution ; they are designated by the name of the day on which they are holden, followed by the name of the chief of the village or group of villages in which they are held. They are visited by all the surrounding population, coming from long distances, as the Puritans attended the general election, or the Thursday lecture. Order is kept by the native police, their guns having previously had their locks removed, as it is a day of peace and good will—the " truce of God." In these markets, beside arms and cutlery, there are offered innumerable native products, including game, rats and mice, fishes, etc. The different markets are distinguished by special products peculiar to the region—in particular instances kola nuts, caoutchouc, or eggs. The medium of exchange may be in rubber or shells or cloth.

The prejudiced, uninformed, and indifferent are accustomed to associate perfect freedom with a state of savagery or semi-barbarism. Upon the African continent nothing can be farther from the truth, as the normal condition of the vast majority is a state of slavery, voluntary or involuntary and more or less rigorous. In fact it is only in the higher cultures that personal freedom is appreciated or its value understood. "Rev. Mr. Heroe tells me that, as I expected, the slaves freed by Mr. Mackenzie value their freedom so little that they frequently go back to slavery," says Mr. Lugard. That "the slaves in the colony are not maltreated and do not desire to be freed" we read in the official report to the German Reichstag upon the state of German East Africa.

"Domestic slaves are of the same race as their masters and are slaves only in the sense that the chief has an absolute right over them and that they are lowest in the social scale. Their status is that of the Russian serf; they are seldom treated badly and are often considered a part of the family," declares Mr. Wilson. (Uganda and the Egyptian Sûdan.)

It has been said that "if you freed three slaves to-day two of them would sell the third to-morrow." Experience amply confirms this statement, asserts Dr. Laws.

"In all Portuguese territory slavery is abolished by law, but the natives buy, sell, and own each other without regard to law, as in some English and other colonies." (Chatelain, Folk-Tales of Angola.)

"In Portuguese Angola slavery is universal. A man is sold for debt (as he once was in Massachusetts), and sells his nephews and nieces." (Chatelain.)

"No slave-holder is so tenacious of his acquired rights as the black man. The first idea of a slave raised from his menial rank is to buy slaves for himself. As Captain Speke observes, "Slavery begets slavery." (J. G. Wood's Uncivilized Races.)

General Gordon in the Sûdan declared that when the shackles and collar were struck from the feet and neck of a captive he would immediately turn to enslave his companions.

The effect of European occupation upon the status of slavery will no doubt in the future be to change the native's relations to his chief, if it does not afford him any economic or social benefit. It will be a change of masters, but otherwise an exchange of one

form of servitude for another more rigorous, more exacting, and more physically and morally exhausting. He will be a freeman, but still an industrial slave.

> "So when a raging fever burns,
> We shift from side to side by turns,
> And 'tis a poor relief we gain
> To change the place and keep the pain."

Thus far we cannot boast of the results which have followed European contact. Slavery still exists where Europeans have had control for three hundred years. Slaves are employed by European colonists almost, if not quite, without exception. If it is not recognized in *name*, it can be found under the name of labor contracts or under the pseudonym of "redemption." Slaves are employed by explorers, by government contractors, by railway builders, by missionary societies, by every one, in fact, in need of labor; and how under these circumstances will the native judge of the sincerity of the Christian abhorrence of slavery?

It has been openly charged—and never, to our knowledge, denied—that certain German contractors had bought from the king of Dahomey slaves captured in the French hinter-land (paying for them in Winchester rifles, to be used against the French) for the purpose of letting them out under contract to build public works in colonies where slavery is by law forbidden and where a Christian crusade is carried on against the slave traffic. The native African, the primitive man, judges a stranger by what he *does*, not by what he *says*.

"The best missionary is the man himself;" "The king's command goes far, but the king's example goes farther," says Erasmus, and a Christian colony, not in name alone, but in practice, has a field before it which has thus far never been occupied by Europeans.

Slavery is a domestic institution under which the African and Asiatic have been reared. Its immediate and total abolition is impossible, and would be extremely injudicious and in many districts cruel and inhuman, if practicable. It is not to be extinguished by the cruelty of arms or by the legal enactments of a superior culture, but by the slow processes and influences of European examples, by regulated industries, by social economy,

thrift, and integrity, and by the practice of the "golden rule," the essence of our Christian faith, of which natives and Europeans at times seem alike ignorant.

Again, says Erasmus in a letter to Abbot Volzius four hundred years ago, "How are we to make the Turks believe in Christ till we show that we believe in Him ourselves? Show them that we are shepherds and not robbers, and then we may effect some good."

In the condition of the slaves emancipated by the force of arms in the United States and by purchase in the West Indies, and of the serfs emancipated in Russia by decree of the czar, there is little, if any, analogy with that of the interior African races, who have no appreciation of liberty and have not learned to understand its meaning.

It will be well to remember in our treatment of inferior races, as M. Petrié forcibly suggests, that "elements of good exist in all races, and our duty is to select and encourage desirable elements, but never to impose any ideals which are peculiar to our own race, age, or civilization." (M. Flinders Petrie, president anthropological section, British Association.)

As to the place the Negro will occupy as a laborer, it will depend, as among Europeans, upon a sufficient motive. If there is no incentive, there will be no desire to work.

In tropical Africa there is no stimulus in the climate, no necessity for clothing, no need of expensive food, no artificial needs or wants such as the European experiences and inherits. It will be necessary to supply the motive, as far as possible, by education and example. M. Lemaire, however, insists that it is an error to suppose that the Negro does not want to work, and yet, if we are correctly informed, laborers were not only imported from Dahomey, but from as far east as Madagascar, under contract to work on the Congo railway. However that may be, we are told that of the vast population of the Congo State there are employed in the service of the State in its thirteen districts 7,156 natives in various regular occupations, not including the large number occasionally employed as porters, and that the different mercantile companies and the various missions—Roman, Protestant, English, and American—regularly employ 3,000 more. This is a creditable beginning, but a very small percentage of the

labor which it is possible for Europeans to educate and command in that region.

Mr. Lugard reports that the fierce Angoni of Nyasaland and the Wanyamwezi in German East Africa are eager for work and among the best porters in Africa.

The Hausas are said to be capable of carrying the enormous load of 180 pounds 10 or 12 miles a day.

Of the rank that the Negro occupies among the races, Lieutenant Lemaire quotes with approval the words of Livingstone, that he had seen "nothing to justify the hypothesis of natural or primitive inferiority, nothing to prove that by nature he belonged to another race than those now more civilized."

The truth of Livingstone's judgment is daily becoming more and more sensible to all students of African problems. The geographic and topographic locations and climatic conditions of the various races are beginning to be given their due importance and weight in their differentiation by social, mental, physical, and anatomical variations. Evidence in confirmation is also furnished by the remarkable correlation discovered between their social customs, government, and laws and our own, when occupying a corresponding plane of culture.

Rev. C. H. Robinson, M. A., asserts that the Hausas, occupying the territory 8° to 14° north latitude and from 4° east to 11° east longitude (the principal town being Kano), a black race, but not of pure Negro blood, a people of splendid physique, whose manufactures are known all over northern Africa, were, if their history is correct, at the time of the Norman conquest of England more civilized than ourselves.

Of the climate of the equatorial region not much can be added to what is already known by the interested public. Lieutenant Lemaire's observations are confined to Equatorville during a period of twenty months, in latitude +2′ 30″, longitude 18° 15′, and at an altitude of 1,040 feet, an altitude, it may be remarked, not sufficiently great to escape miasmatic influences in a virgin and uncultivated country. The warmest months are January, February, March, and April. The cooler are May, June, July, and the beginning of August. During the latter period the temperature does not usually exceed 86° F. In January, 1892, the highest temperature noted is 89.60° F.; in February, 91.40° F.; in March, 93.20° F.; in April, 94.20° F., equivalent to a tem-

perature in the sun of about 122° F. Of the most remarkable minima, the lowest was in June, 1892, indicating 63.80° F.; the highest, April, 1891, 77° F.

The maxima temperatures of the cool months were in May, 1892, 89.60° F.; June, 86° F.; July, 1892, 85.10° F.

The minima temperatures of the same months were respectively 66.60° F., 63.80° F., and 66.60° F.

Climatologically M. Lemaire thinks that the equatorial year can be divided as follows:

Season of heat, late January, February, March, and April; season of moderate storms, May; season of fresh breezes, June, July, and August; season of lighter winds, September and October; season of rains and storms, November, December, and early January.

From an examination of the monthly diagrams for one year, from May, 1891, to May, 1892, it appears that—

Heavy, ordinary, and light rains fell on	138	days
Wet and dry tornadoes on	65	"
Dry storms on	9	"
Very high winds on	67	"
A total of	279	"

of wet or decidedly uncomfortable weather.

The tornadoes, which are very violent, uprooting trees and destroying houses, occur with unpleasant frequency, and during the "high winds" the Congo is lashed into foam, and navigation in open boats is extremely dangerous.

I find from these diagrams that the mean of the maximum temperatures for the year, April, 1891, to April, 1892, is 89.68° F.; the minimum, 66.32° F., and that May, 1892, the month of "moderate storms," shows a mean minimum temperature of 69.38° F. and a mean maximum of 84.60° F.

To the intending colonist or to the student of climatology, Lieutenant Lemaire's brochure is of little value, as he entirely omits any statement of or reference to hydrographic observations, which are absolutely necessary to the determination of the adaptation of a climate to European occupation.

The *bêtes noire* of the European are excessive humidity and a high mean temperature, and M. Lemaire kindly leaves us to

infer the first and to calculate the second—an inference easily made when the rain falls on one-half the days in the year. As I have elsewhere written:

"It will be found that the greatest enemies of the European in the tropics, after his own bad habits, are not the occasional excessive temperatures or the great differences in the extreme temperatures, but excessive humidity, combined with a continuity of unaccustomed temperature, or, in other words, with a high annual mean, and that the great advantage of the higher over the lower regions is in their greater dryness rather than in a lower temperature of the atmosphere." (Bulletin A. C. S., No. 3, November, 1893.)

We gather from these tables the evidence upon which Lieutenant Lemaire has founded his conclusion, so honestly stated above, that "the greater part of the Free State, so called, is not adapted to European colonization."

M. Lemaire's papers are devoted especially to the valley of the Congo and the region of Equatorville, and it is not to be inferred by the casual reader that the social and climatic conditions described in them exist everywhere in Africa, which can boast of a vast variety of climates, many of which are perfectly adapted to Europeans, as well as of a great diversity of races and cultures.

The typography of the Congo et Belgique is excellent and superior to much of the work done in this country, while the illustrations are very unequal in quality and character and as a whole inferior. GEORGE R. STETSON.

LETTERS FROM LIBERIA.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *October 30, 1895.*

Mr. J. ORMOND WILSON,
Secretary A. C. Society, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR:

* * * * * * *

During my trip down the coast I spent several weeks in Grand Bassa county, visiting Fish Town, Buchanan, Edina, and some of the settlements up the St. John river. Hartford, Fortsville, etc. The chief object of my journey up the river was to visit the Beulah Mission lands.

While in Bassa I delivered a lecture on common school education to a large and interested audience in Buchanan, visited several schools, and became acquainted with leading citizens. A part of the time I was the guest of Mr. D. F. Harris, commissioner of education for the county. He is an energetic man and interested in the cause of education. I have subjoined some figures to serve as a sample of the schools in Bassa. It was not convenient to visit all the schools, but those visited will compare favorably with those mentioned in my first report. I found, however, a greater uniformity of text-books. I think it has been customary for the Government in this county to supply books free to common schools.

Cape Palmas is a great missionary center. The cause of education seems to be taken in hand by the P. E. Church. Cuttington is at the head. This institution is well known abroad and throughout Liberia. There are mission schools to do the primary work. The Hall school, too, seems to be doing a good work.

The M. E. Church has a fine seminary building here, but the school was not in active operation when I was present.

My first report to you concerned only Government schools, and I am afraid that the general public abroad will get from it the impression that there are no other schools in the country. This is a mistake. I am of the opinion that the mission schools are the best. There are in Liberia schools supported by the Episcopal and Methodist churches, free public schools by the Government, and many private pay schools. Besides this, families in rural districts having natives as apprentices living with them buy books, etc., and teach the children evenings.

These foreign denominations have good schools connected with their missionary work all over the country—at Cape Palmas, Sinoe, Bassa, Junk, Monrovia, Montserrado county, Cape Mount.

In addition to this, the Baptists in the Republic have taken hold with their usual persistency and are beginning to make themselves seen and felt in school-work. Their Zodakie mission, or Ricks Institute, founded by Moses Ricks, of Montserrado county, is an honor to that denomination and destined to become a shining light in West Africa. At Arthington, too, they have a primary school. One of the late immigrants by the *Horsa*, Mr. Smith, is the teacher. He is regularly paid by private funds and doing well. The school is well supplied with the new books

sent to me by the American Colonization Society. Of private pay schools I will mention one, that taught by Miss Smith at Hartford, Grand Bassa county. It is well attended, well taught, and fills a great need in that community.

The Presbyterians render aid to education, and the Muhlenberg Mission is become a fixture indispensable. I need say nothing of that Lutheran institution; its fame is abroad. I hope during the next year to be in a condition to give a statistical report of all schools in Liberia, thus exhibiting a fair view of the educational condition.

The free public schools are supported by part of the general revenue arising from customs dues, licenses, and other taxes. Within the last few years the government has had great additional expenses in fighting the Cape Palmas war, purchasing a new gunboat, etc., and it has been impossible to afford the same school facilities as before the war. Now that all is quiet, attention is again returning to educational interests, and the people are discussing the best means of putting the common schools on a firmer basis. An internal land and poll tax especially for schools is suggested and better supervision and local subcontrol. The legislature will be asked to revise and amend the school law, so that the maintenance of the schools and the duties of officers will be better understood and more efficacious.

The people of Brewerville and Johnsonville are preparing to build school-houses. A new school-house has already been completed at Arthington. The people will be urged to build school-houses in every settlement.

The school-book supply marks a new era in educational work in Liberia. The first shipment arrived in March, and I have already sold a large portion of them at American prices. This has been during the rainy season, when it was impossible to travel much. As it becomes generally known that these books can be had a greater demand will be created, and thus will be inaugurated a uniformity in text-books, better school-work, and greater interest in primary and elementary education.

During the two years I have been in Africa I have tried to be careful to preserve health, in order to be of future use to the country. It was necessary, too, for me to observe the present condition and note the possible changes and improvements that should be made. I have had to "go slow;" too fast would

spoil everything. I feel now that I have undergone a profitable probation as to health, observation, and introduction, so that, should I have the privilege of writing again for your readers, I hope to be able to point to facts more tangible.

In connection with the duties I owe the Society, I have arranged to deliver lectures on language work and pedagogy in the female department of Liberia College (taught in Monrovia city, not at college building) and at Ricks Institute. This will not conflict with the work I came here to do, but brings me more *en rapport* therewith. I intend it to lead to the Teachers' Institute and professional intercourse with the teachers of the common schools. Under this arrangement a great part of my time is spent in visiting rural schools, introducing new methods and new books, and awakening interest in better teaching, better pay of teachers, better school houses and supplies.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

J. C. STEVENS,

Agent of the American Colonization Society.

Free Public Schools, Grand Bassa County, Liberia.

Name of teacher.	Number of the school.	Whole number of pupils.	Average attendance.	Good readers.	Location.
George H. Harris....	1	55	43	11	Kingsville.
Sarah C. Vick..	2	24	24	13	New Series.
H. C. A. Miller.....	3	29	29	2	Farmington.
J. S. Lymas.....	4	30	28	4	Marwar.
E. C. Williams.....	5	37	27	5	Edina.
J. W. Duncan.....	6	62	55	8	Hartford.
W. A. Imere.....	7	42	35	12	Bexley.
I. H. Early.....	8	42	37	4	Paynesville.
J. A. M. Peters... ..	9	45	25	5	Upper Buchanan.
H. P. Hall F. A. Strong	10	71	51	9	Lower Buchanan.
Mrs. F. M. Ridgel...	11	47	30	18	Edina, Female High School.
J. P. Artis.....	12	31	14	4	Owen Grove.
E. M. Boyles.....	13	45	35	11	Fortsville.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA, *November 10, 1895.*

Mr. J. ORMOND WILSON,

Secretary A. C. Society, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In reply to your favor quoting the report of J. R. Tucker, Frank Shelton, and Ebenezer Russell, published in Philadelphia, July 30, under the caption, "Liberian Colonists Starving," etc., which states that emigrants to Liberia who came on the steamship *Horsa*, arriving there on March 7 last, were "simply dumped ashore, allowed to shift for themselves; were dying of starvation, eating the flesh of dead animals and snakes with avidity," etc., I take pleasure in making some corrections that seem to me necessary in order that our friends may still feel justified in entertaining a fair opinion of us.

1. There were 207 passengers in all. They arrived on Sunday. No one here had the least idea that they were coming. The cablegram said to have been sent by the Migration Society via Sierra Leone was not received here. Our first notice was the arrival of the steamer in the port of Monrovia, flying the United States flag.

Mr. Robert Sherman and I were both slightly indisposed with fever. Steamers do not work in Liberian ports on Sunday, so the passengers had to remain on board until Monday morning. However, Mr. Robert T. Sherman, emigration agent for Liberia, came to see me, and we spent the Sunday actively engaged in getting and preparing houses for so many people coming so unexpectedly. Mr. Sherman held consultations with President Cheeseman, the result of which was that, with such humble assistance as I could give, we had house-room and accommodation for every one.

Early Monday morning Mr. Sherman and I went aboard the *Horsa*, and the landing soon began. Every available cargo-boat was set to work with good "Kroo-boys." Mr. Robert Hill, Government boarding-master, kindly remained on shore, at the American Colonization Society's warehouse, to receive them. The passengers and their effects were landed at the ship's expense. It was reported to Mr. Sherman and myself on board that the "headman" on one of the boats had collected twenty-five cents from each of two men, and Mr. Sherman in my presence ordered its immediate return. The only thing reported

lost during the entire landing was a keg of nails, dropped overboard from the steamer. When night came every soul and all the luggage were on shore.

I had during the day caused the west end of the Society's warehouse to be put in neater condition, and a few of the passengers remained in it, on the second and third floors. In the large cellar I caused to be stored the heavy luggage not wanted. Such luggage as trunks, valises, etc., had gone along with the people respectively to their lodgings.

The main body of passengers—all not accommodated by me at the Society's warehouse—while in Monrovia were lodged in commodious plank and brick buildings—dwelling-houses. Among those houses used by them was the McGill building, then mainly vacant, a house about 60 by 50 feet and three and a half stories high. Not one of the 207 slept out of doors Monday night nor at any other time, and their baggage was well stored.

2. One child had died on board and was brought ashore and buried on Sunday. One elderly woman and one old man, who were reported to have been ill during the voyage, died soon after landing. The ship, as far as I could see, was not cleanly kept on deck. As far as I have heard to date, 16 or 17 of the 207 have died. Among such a number of our people coming here, some will be indiscreet, not heeding the admonition not to expose themselves to the sun too much at first and to refrain from eating fruit, such as pine-apples, which are plentiful, oranges, etc.; and many don't like to take pills and quinine.

3. The Government had long ago caused to be surveyed at its expense 25 acres of land for each family and 10 acres for each single person 21 years of age, or 18 years, if female, giving each a certificate, with metes and bounds. This it does for all emigrants. As soon as he has occupied and improved this land to some small extent to show that he means to become a permanent resident, the emigrant can get a deed therefor by paying one dollar and fifty cents to pay for cost of printing and recording the same.

Mr. Sherman informs me that it cost the Government not less than $1,200 to make this survey. Revs. Perry and Nimmo were the surveyors.

The emigrants made several journeys to different parts of

the country and chose their lands in Johnsonville, Brewerville, and Royeville townships, nearly an equal number going to each of these settlements. During the rainy season just passed they have lived in the houses of the older settlers. Many of them have now built their own houses and are working on their land. Some have already planted potatoes, cassada, and a few have from 2,000 to 4,000 coffee scions planted out. Mr. Cheek, Sr., has been elected road inspector and is township constable at Johnsonville, while one, Mr. Smith, is giving satisfaction as a teacher at Arthington.

4. The Migration Society contracted to furnish provisions to support the emigrants for some time after their arrival. This they failed to do, as there was no room in the ship to stow the provisions, but, I am informed, promised Mr. Sherman to bring them next time; so Mr. Robert T. Sherman, emigration agent here, bought barrels of flour, tierces of bacon, barrels of crackers, several one-hundred weight sacks of white rice, tins of butter, and other articles of food to the value of $600, which he divided and sent with the colonists to their chosen settlements. The colonists, with this food supply, were conveyed to their places at Government expense, no charge being on the colonists in any case. Since that time I am satisfied that a greater amount has been donated by private individuals.

5. As to the report that emigrants have had to eat the flesh of dead animals and snakes, that is the wildest kind of untruth and sheer nonsense. I dare say, though, that it will be easy to make people in America believe any kind of snake story accredited to Africa. From pictures of the flora and fauna found in all the geographies just before you come to the map of Africa, I myself expected to find plenty of elephants, lions, leopards, hippopotamuses, zebras, giraffes, and a 40-foot boa-constrictor hanging from any tree engaged in the pastime of swallowing a horse and his rider, or twisted around a lion or an elephant preparatory to enjoying a full meal.

On the contrary, though I have traveled on foot almost all over this (Montserrado) county; have spent from one to four weeks in each of Bassa, Sinoe, and Maryland counties, going on foot to most of the settlements, the time covering a space of two years and six months, I have not yet seen one of the aforesaid beasts and have not seen as many as ten snakes. There are people here

forty years old who have never seen an elephant or lion and never heard of a giraffe. The largest snake I have seen is a tame boa-constrictor owned by Mr. W. C. Dennis, in Monrovia, caught while young and now about seven or eight feet long. When Mr. Dennis takes it down street a great crowd of small boys, natives, and others follow with excited curiosity.

Of the snakes that I have seen only two were as much as three-fourths of an inch in diameter. Though a person here should go a snake-hunting, searching diligently seven days in a week, he will not find as many snakes in a year as he can find in North Carolina around one mill-pond in the course of a few summer days. I speak from my own observation.

There is no need for any one here to eat snakes unless he has a hankering for such food, and then, owing to the scarcity of that article, it would be much cheaper and easier to buy, shoot, or catch fresh pork, beef, goat, mutton, venison, ground-hog, wild boar, porcupine, or fish, which are much more plentiful and wholesome than snakes.

I have the honor to be, yours most obediently,

J. C. STEVENS,
Agent A. C. S.

MONROVIA AND ST. PAUL RIVER.

Before going to Monrovia I read various accounts of Monrovia calculated to give the idea that the town consisted merely of a few scattered houses hidden in dense thickets which had completely overgrown what had formerly been streets. This is as far wrong as other statements to the effect that Monrovia is a flourishing city of 12,000 or 14,000 inhabitants. The fact is that Monrovia is a quiet village of perhaps 2,500 people. If the population of the neighboring Krootown is reckoned in, the number will be at least doubled. The soil of Cape Montserrado and the adjoining hills is mostly too rocky for cultivation; in many places nothing but jagged rocks are found when the tangled mass of vegetation has been removed. These facts prevent the existence of many successful farms in the vicinity of Monrovia, and hence there is little object in clearing land beyond what is used for yards and streets. Thus it happens that many of the

streets of Monrovia, if followed out, lead into dense thickets of tropical vegetation, but this does not affect the fact that there are several miles of open streets. Weeds, trees, and vines grow with wonderful luxuriance, and are cut several times a year. The entire absence of beasts of burden and wheeled vehicles has not necessitated the proper grading of the streets, and allows grass to grow except in the walks and foot-paths. Of course, this appears very strange and unprogressive. Residents of Monrovia

Ashmun Street, Monrovia. Methodist Church at the Right.

have, however, the consolation of being free from noise, dust, and bad smells. There is also none of the glaring light so uncomfortable in tropical cities with paved or dusty streets. As shade-trees, there are many beautiful mangoes and cocoanuts and many other species in less number. There are many well-built and comfortable houses, some with well-kept yards and gardens. The site of Monrovia is one of great natural beauty, and there is every encouragement for keeping the material development in the line of the natural possibilities. The business

portion of the town along the foot of the hill is being too much neglected. The lines of the streets are not being preserved, and if the present process continues, the result will be a disorderly collection of very miscellaneous structures. In some places there are unsightly pits and pools flooded at high tides. As the water is salt, these are perhaps not as dangerous as they look. It very frequently happens that visitors to the coast land from the steamers, walk through Krootown and along the "waterside," and return to Europe and America to give their impressions of Liberia. However unjust and mistaken the reports of such may be, it would be better policy to make that part of the town more respectable in appearance. The puddles are not an advantage, and the cost of filling them up need not be considerable.

One of the greatest disadvantages of Monrovia is the lack of a sufficient water supply. There are numerous wells, but most of them are very shallow. They have to be put down through rock, and by the crude methods employed the work is very expensive. A colonist with experience and machinery for drilling wells through rock would be a useful citizen for Monrovia to secure. However, most of the year the water supply is ample, the deficiency being felt only at the end of the dry season—that is, during March and April. The subterranean supply would in all probability be sufficient if the wells were deep enough to reach it, and is of good quality.

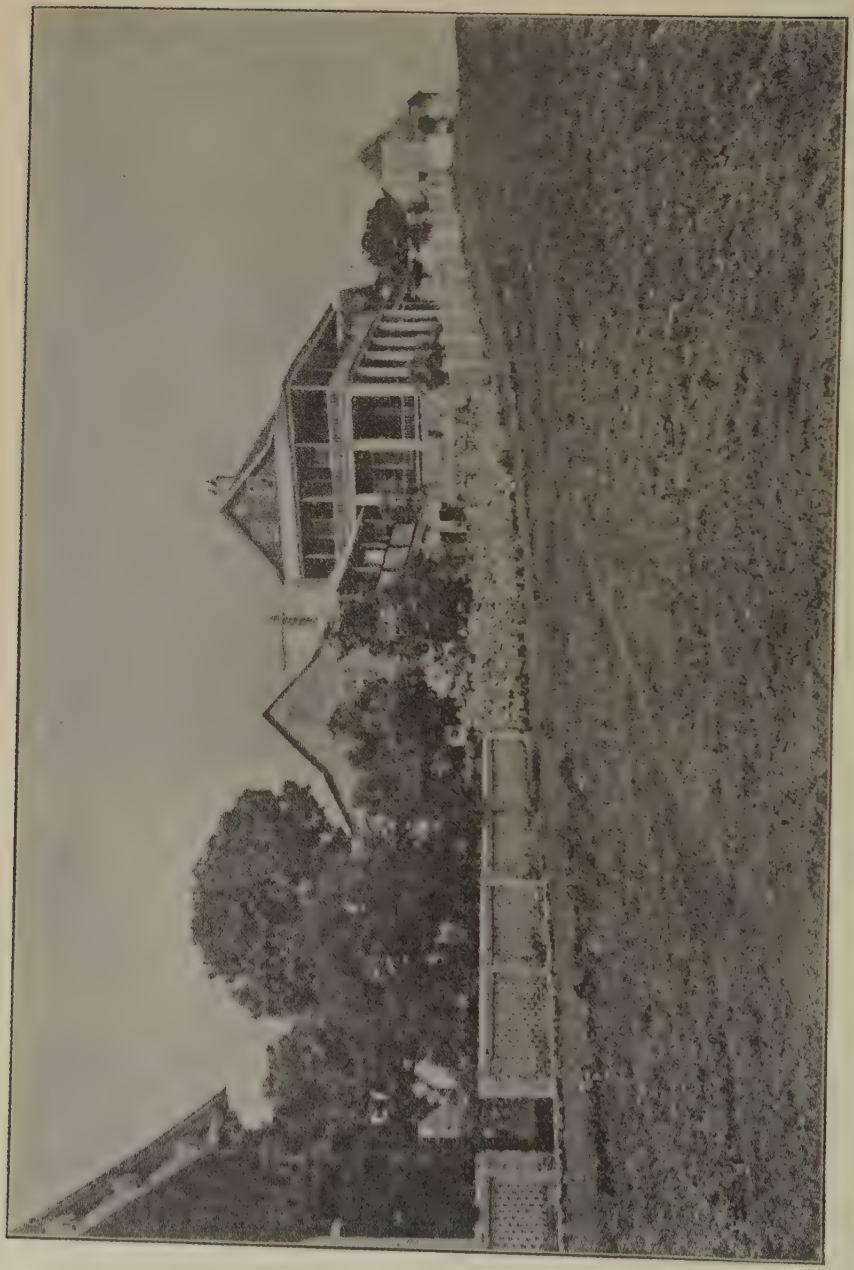
Krootown offers a striking contrast to Monrovia proper. The native conditions are very slightly modified by the close proximity of civilization. With one or two exceptions, the houses are all of the native style, low square structures, with walls of coarse mats and roof of palm-thatch. European dress is being gradually adopted, but the great majority of the population is thoroughly savage in the sense of being primitive. Civilization is, however, taking hold. In many of the houses are to be found lamps, dishes, and pictures, such as they are. The people show good judgment in not adopting European dress to a greater degree, for it is entirely unsuited to their needs and methods of life. The civilized part of the population of Liberia wears too many clothes. By persistently following such a course the Liberians have persuaded themselves that they need the superfluous covering. Indeed, they have in many cases produced and perpetuated an invalid condition, so that to remove the

clothing would require caution, in order not to suffer from the change. The Kroo people are mostly not burdened with a superfluity of clothing, although the wearing of one or two of the garments of a civilized outfit is very common.

From Monrovia the St. Paul river is reached by passing for eight miles through Stockton creek, a narrow, crooked bayou. This is lined on both sides for a large part of the distance with mangrove, at intervals interspersed with pandanus, one of the screw-palms, in Liberia generally called "dragon's blood." The banks of Stockton creek are, of course, uninhabited except for an occasional native settlement in places where the ground is high enough to permit of cultivation. The banks of St. Paul river are high, and the swamps cease at the end of Stockton creek. For twenty miles there is a broad, navigable river, with many farms and grounds. One of the best-kept places on the river is that of Mr. Decosses. The various settlements along the river are not villages in the American sense, but are clusters of farms with township government. Caldwell is the first settlement at the right, going up. Clay Ashland is the nearest approach to a village, there being stores and houses near together. It has also the only hill near the river. Scattered over the hill are numerous white-quartz boulders. Some "geologist" pronounced these "limestone," and various ineffectual attempts at burning them were made. Just above Clay Ashland is one of the characteristic bridges of the country—passable for foot-passengers, but not adapted to the use of beasts of burden.

Arthington is generally considered to be the most flourishing settlement in the St. Paul region, if not in all Liberia. It has expanded as far as is possible without the introduction of beasts of burden. Several square miles of coffee are under cultivation and many evidences of prosperity are present. With the introduction of improved means of transportation the whole region of Arthington, Mt. Coffee, and Careysburg might become an important beginning toward the settlement and improvement of the interior.

Behind Arthington and Mt. Coffee the conditions are entirely primitive, the natives having been very little influenced in their modes of life by the proximity of civilization. Still, many of the old things have passed away; the tribal organizations have been largely broken up and superstitions have lost much of their



Part of Ashmun Street, Monrovia, Liberia.

fierceness, though clung to with the greatest tenacity, even in spite of the advantages of missions and schools.

Fifteen or twenty miles behind the last Liberian settlers the proximity of another society has no longer any appreciable force. The natives barricade their towns and indulge in wars which sometimes extend down to the borders of settlements. The barricaded towns have the appearance of enormous chicken-yards. The barricades are constructed entirely of wood, ingeniously held together by wild vines, or, as they are usually called, "country rope."

In former times mission stations were projected far back in the interior, even to Boporu, about ninety miles from the coast. It was never found possible to actually establish these stations except in a few cases, and then they were not maintained except for very brief periods. The interior will probably not be penetrated by Christianity until more or less civilization is also carried. The problem is, as has been pointed out in discussing colonization, merely one of transportation.

Among the Golahs, and in fact all the interior tribes, houses are almost invariably constructed with the walls plastered with clay, and a Golah town has an entirely different appearance from a Kroo town. O. F. Cook.

THE TRADE IN SPIRITS WITH WEST AFRICA.

The following report has been drawn up in order to comply with a request made on the 23d of August, 1895, by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to a deputation from the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce for information on the subject of the trade in spirits with West Africa, and for suggestions which would aid him in dealing with the matter, in view of statements which had been made to the effect that the promotion of trade in West Africa meant the promotion of trade in liquor. The Committee of the African Trade Section of the Chamber, upon whom it devolved to make this report, felt that they could not deal with the subject in a fair manner without first procuring the most recent and fullest statistics available of the trade and its effects. The procuring of these statistics has led to some delay.

The committee have dealt with the figures and facts relating to each British West African colony separately, as the amount and circumstances of the trade differ in each colony.

The trade statistics used in the compilation of the report are, in the case of the colonies of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, Gold Coast, and Lagos, for the last five years for which figures are available. In the case of the Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Gold Coast the statistics are for 1889 to 1893, both inclusive, and in the case of Lagos for 1890 to 1894. The government of the Niger Coast protectorate having only recently been reorganized, it is only possible to obtain statistics for three complete years, viz., 1892–'93, 1893–'94, and 1894–'95.

The colonies are taken in their geographical order, the nearest being

THE GAMBIA.

The trade of the Gambia is small, and spirits form so very small a proportion of the trade that very few remarks will suffice in dealing with this colony. In the five years, 1889 to 1893, the proportion of the value of imported spirits to the value of the whole imports (excluding specie) into the colony was only 2½ per cent. It is therefore unnecessary to examine the facts respecting the distribution of so small a quantity.

SIERRA LEONE.

At Sierra Leone the proportion of the value of imported spirits to the value of the whole imports (excluding specie) in the five years, 1889 to 1893, was 7¼ per cent. The average quantity imported per year was 300,000 gallons, but it will be seen from the table at page 29 that since 1890 there has been a gradual decrease in the quantity imported. The population of the colony in 1893, exclusive of that of the outlying districts, was estimated at 126,000 souls. The imports, therefore, if used in the colony, averaged only a consumption of 2½ gallons per head per annum. The population of the colony is small compared with that of the area within which the imported spirits are distributed, and, taking it for granted that the area of distribution generally and in this particular instance is very extensive, since it is said that wherever in Africa the white man has penetrated the gin bottle has preceded him, it must at once be allowed in the case of the

colony of Sierra Leone, as shown already in the case of the Gambia, that neither the importation nor the consumption of imported spirits is excessive. The criminal statistics, as recorded in the blue books of the colony, show further that crime, which generally accompanies the excessive consumption of ardent spirits, is rare, and that the amount of crime is being reduced. The total number of convictions for all offenses in the superior and inferior courts of the colony in 1890 were 983. In 1893 the number of convictions had declined to 685, which was at the rate of five offenders per thousand of the population. This statement will probably satisfy most persons as to the sobriety of the inhabitants of the colony of Sierra Leone. Indeed, the question of drunkenness does not appear to be dealt with in any form in the reports from this colony, not even in the comments on crime in the colony.

THE GOLD COAST.

The proportion of the value of imported spirits to the value of the whole imports (excluding specie) at the Gold Coast in the five years, 1889 to 1893, was 16½ per cent. The average quantity imported per year was nearly 1,100,000 gallons. The imports are to the districts west and east of the Volta, and the area of distribution is very large. In the year 1893, when the imports of spirits, owing to the rapid growth of trade, reached 1,500,000 gallons,* about 1,000,000 gallons were imported into the districts west of the Volta and 500,000 gallons into Kitta for the district east of the Volta. The population of the colony and protectorate in 1891 was about 1,500,000 souls, so that the recent importation averages one gallon per annum per head of the population; but it has to be borne in mind that the population of the hinterlands of the colony and protectorate was estimated recently by Mr. Hesketh J. Bell, colonial treasurer, at 3,000,000 souls to 4,000,000 souls; so that again in this case neither the importation nor the consumption of foreign spirits can be called excessive; indeed,

*See grand total value of imports, page 58, showing gradual advance from £400,572 in 1889 to £626,479 in 1893. The increase in the quantity of spirits imported may also be partly accounted for by diversion of trade from Togoland to Kitta on adoption of special tariff for Kitta (note Mr. Hesketh Bell's remarks, page 23).

the imports appear trifling when compared with the number of supposed consumers, and there does not appear to be the slightest ground for complaint as to the demoralization of the native races of the Gold Coast The reports of the late governor of the colony, Sir Brandford Griffith, bear this out, and the committee would draw attention to his excellency's remarks on page 22 of Colonial Report for 1892, and on page 18 of report for 1893. These remarks are reprinted in the appendix to this report, page 47. The observations made by Mr. Hesketh Bell, under the head of "Import Trade," in his paper on the Gold Coast Colony, read at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on the 1st of May, 1893, confirm, if needful, the remarks made by Sir Brandford Griffith. These observations, which occur on pages 24–27 of the address referred to, are also reprinted in the appendix to this report. It is enough to repeat here one of Mr. Bell's statements, which says that "the sight of a man in a hopelessly intoxicated condition is very rare on the West Coast of Africa." Again, also, the criminal statistics of the Gold Coast support the statements made by the committee and Gold Coast officials, as the total number of convictions in the courts for all offenses, great and small, were in 1890 4,569, or three per thousand of population, and in the two years following the number of convictions was reduced. From this it does not appear that crime in the Gold Coast colony is on the increase.

LAGOS.

The proportion of the value of imported spirits to the value of the whole imports (excluding specie), including merchandise in transit at Lagos, in the five years, 1890 to 1894, was 18½ per cent. The average quantity imported per year was 1,480,000 gallons, but of this there was an average quantity of 250,000 gallons in transit by sea, which was reëxported to French Benin, viz., Porto Novo, etc. This export reduced the average yearly imports into Lagos to 1,230,000 gallons.* The colony is only a very small part of the area from which the trade of Lagos is derived, and the population of the colony in 1894 was 85,000 souls. It would,

*The grand total of imports at Lagos rose from £440,015 in 1890 to £701,179 in 1894, and it is noteworthy that the increase in goods was greater than in spirits.

however, be entirely misleading to suppose that the large quantity of spirits imported into Lagos is consumed in the colony. It is distributed from the port of Lagos by innumerable waterways and by land west, north, and east of the port, and in order to form a correct idea of the average quantity consumed per head it must be borne in mind that Sir Gilbert Carter on his three months' journey to Ilorin and back in 1893 passed through towns and villages estimated to contain a total of 600,000 inhabitants, the most distant of which was only 150 miles from the coast; and, further, that the population of Yoruba, which is comprehended in the near hinterlands of Lagos, is estimated at 3,000,000 souls. As, however, the complaints as to drunkenness have emanated almost solely from Lagos and Abeokuta, 30 miles distant, there may be special need for the Government to organize such inquiries as are suggested hereafter in the colony of Lagos. The report of Sir Gilbert Carter of his journey of 1893 contains only one reference to drunkenness, which does not, therefore, appear to have been an obtrusive feature in the habits of the people two and a half years ago. The criminal convictions in the colony show a decrease in crime, and the total number of convictions of all sorts in 1894, out of the population of 85,000, was 345, or four criminals, great and small, in every thousand of the population. This is a remarkable fact as bearing on the question of the sobriety of the people, since at Sierra Leone, where the imports of spirits are only one-fourth of the quantity imported at Lagos, the criminals are five per thousand of population.

THE NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.

As the furthest limits of the British West African colonies are approached and the population in the hinterlands are found to be less civilized and to inhabit swampy lands, the importation of spirits becomes a more prominent feature. In the case of the Niger protectorate, reliable statistics are only available for 1892–'93, 1893–'94, and 1894–'95, or from about the time when the districts of the Oil rivers were brought under more direct British rule. In these years the average proportion of the value of imported spirits to the value of the whole imports (exclusive of specie) into the Niger Coast protectorate was 21 per cent. The average quantity imported in the three years was 1,923,471

gallons,* but the statistics rendered do not exactly define the depots for distribution. The greatest trade is, however, done with the ports east of the Nun river, viz., with Bonny, Opobo, and Old Calabar, where the immediate Hinterlands are outside the area of competition of the Royal Niger Company. Competition with that company evidently affects and reduces the trade of Benin, Wari, and Brass, and the trade of Benin is probably further diminished by competition arising from the eastern part of the colony of Lagos.

In further explanation of the small trade in spirits done from Benin, Wari, and Brass, it may be relevant to the subject to say that the greater part of the trade in spirits on the western side of the Lower Niger and within the delta and the country immediately adjacent is done by the Royal Niger Company. The inhabitants are generally pagan. A large quantity of spirits is known to be imported by the Royal Niger Company for distribution in this region. Upon these imports the company in its administrative capacity charges a duty of two shillings per gallon to itself in its trading capacity. Under these circumstances this duty is a nominal one. The company is without competitors in the spheres which they effectively occupy, and beyond those spheres, owing to the nominal character of their duty, they can most successfully compete with traders from the Niger Coast protectorate, who have to part with their spirits without profit in order to sell their cloth.

The area of distribution of trade, and consequently of spirits, from the ports of the Niger Coast protectorate is very great, notwithstanding that under the regulations of the Royal Niger Company spirits may not be conveyed by the river north of Asaba,

*If the table on page 59 be examined, it may be remarked that the quantity of spirits imported in 1893-'94 was double that of 1892-'93. This, however, must not be ascribed wholly to an increase in the trade, as in 1891 there were large imports of spirits in anticipation of the first imposition of duty. The stocks of 1891 had therefore to be worked off in 1892-'93. On their reduction importation on a larger scale was resumed, especially as there had been a rise of 50 per cent. in the value of African produce at home. The statistics for 1894-'95, just published and included in the table, bear out the foregoing remarks, since they show a decline in the imports of 1894-'95, as compared with 1893-'94, of 836,817 gallons. The current year's imports will again be large, owing to shipments in anticipation of the doubling of the duty.

or only to a point 140 miles from the sea in a direct line. It is, nevertheless, a fact that from Benin and Wari, viz., from the west and north of the Forcados, native traders travel great distances inland into countries where, if they are not relieved from competition with traders from the ports of the Royal Niger Company, the officers of the company cannot intercept them. Eastward of Brass, the hinterlands of Bonny, Opobo, and the Calabars are still more open, and Opobo, the center of a district with a population of 2,000,000, is known to be a great depot from which produce is carried to many local markets and to Bende, 60 to 100 miles distant, a large town in the interior, and thence distributed.

As in the colony of Lagos, the waterways of the delta afford innumerable opportunities for trade and therefore for the distribution of spirits. The scope for the consumption of spirituous liquors in the two Niger protectorates will be seen to be enormous when it is noted that the population is variously estimated at 17,000,000 to 35,000,000 souls, of whom some few millions inhabit the delta countries, where the relaxing and humid atmosphere probably tends to produce a demand for stimulants. Too much importance, on the ground of individual consumption, must not, however, be attached to the returns showing the number of gallons of spirits landed at the ports of the Niger Coast protectorate. A letter bearing on this and other points connected with the spirit trade at Opobo is given on page 24 of the Appendix to this report; other letters, of very recent date, from traders at Benin and Wari are similar in effect. The Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate from August, 1891, to August, 1894, rendered lately to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs by Sir Claude Macdonald, Her Majesty's commissioner and consul general, supports the statements made by traders. Under the head of Old Calabar, at pages 7 and 8, Sir Claude makes valuable remarks on the subject of the liquor traffic, quoting in part the observations of Mr. Hodgson, Gold Coast, (see Sir Brandford Griffith's report), and adding remarks of his own. Sir Claude refers to the manufacture by the natives of potent liquor from the palm tree, but says that "the African native would certainly appear to be fully aware of the advantages of temperance," adding that he has "seen more drunkenness in

some of the large towns of Great Britain in one hour than in Africa in eight years' residence."*

Miscellaneous Facts Relating to the Extent of the Consumption of Spirits in the Colonies, to the Quality of the Liquors Imported, and Further Qualifying Remarks by Government Officials.

In reckoning the amount of spirits actually consumed a considerable deduction has to be made for "breakage" whilst the spirits are being transported to the distant interior. Spirits are also buried with the dead or laid upon their tombs, Sir Alfred Moloney remarking in 1888, when recording his visit to the east of Lagos, that he "saw graves with full bottles of gin as headstones, which even the Kroo boy was superstitious enough not to touch." The adulteration of spirits at present with water is also extensive. Formerly proof spirits were imported, but now the gin sent to Lagos and the Niger Coast protectorate ranges from 20 to 45 per cent. under proof, while rum is 10 to 15 per cent. under proof. This fact is certified to by the governor of Lagos, who recently remarked that "it is known that most at least of the gin which finds its way into the interior is so adulterated with water that it needs but little further dilution." As to the quality of the spirits, he remarks that he is informed by experts that the gin which comes to West Africa "is not a poisonous, unwholesome compound, but a safe and palatable stimulant, if properly diluted, and I have known some Europeans who took it in preference to any other spirit." Consumption of spirits by the ordinary native is restricted by the price of the article. From the Colonial Blue Books it is apparent that the prices charged for the higher classes of alcoholic liquors at the ports must be prohibitive of their consumption by laborers, while the lower classes of spirits are dear in proportion to their earnings. In the interior the price becomes greatly enhanced by the cost and method of transport. Mr. Hesketh Bell's statement that rum and gin are only used to any great extent at weddings, funerals, and palavers, and by men of wealth and position, is indorsed by the governor of Lagos and

*See also further remarks on page 48 of Appendix, extracted from the Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1894–'95, just published.

by traders of long experience on the coast. The statement that the natives are deteriorating as a whole under the influence of liquor seems to have no warrant in fact. On the West Coast, as here, there are occasionally found drunkards, but these are among the chiefs and wealthy natives. It is said that in the ports where spirits are cheapest the natives are superior, physically and mentally, to those in the bu h villages.

INCREASE OF DUTIES AT LAGOS AND NIGER COAST PROTECTORATE.

The Lagos merchants will now have to contend at a greater disadvantage than before with importers into French Benin and with the Royal Niger Company at the back of the colony. The merchants of the Niger Coast protectorate will have to contend with the same company and with the Cameroons. The duty levied in the British territories, from Badagry to Old Calabar, will be two shillings per gallon, while west of Badagry, in French Benin, the duty is only six pence per gallon,* and at the Cameroons nine and one-half pence per gallon.

In the opinion of Lagos merchants that colony will lose revenue from spirits and will have to increase the duty on cloth, while French Benin will add to its revenue from spirits, and thus be able to admit cloth free, the total result being decadence in the trade of Lagos. The same argument may be applied, with rather less force, perhaps, to the conditions of trade as between the Niger Coast protectorate eastward and the German colony of the Cameroons.

In connection with this division of the subject the statement of Mr. Hesketh Bell as to a phase in the recent history of the trade relations of that district of the Gold Coast colony, of which Kitta is the center, with the German protectorate of Togoland, is worthy of attentive consideration. (See Appendix, page 51.)

THE BRUSSELS ACT, 1890.

Although it may be said that the recent advance in the duties at Lagos and on the Niger Coast is not a violation of the terms of article 92 of the general act of Brussels, it is nevertheless a practical violation of the spirit of that agreement. It was therein

* This amount of duty is charged on gin and rum of the kind and strength generally imported into Lagos.

arranged that the powers having possessions or exercising protectorates in the pagan districts, which were indicated, if not so described in the article, should impose an import duty of not less than six pence per gallon and up to one shilling per gallon in the six years following the signature of the act, which term will expire on the 2d of July, 1896. On the expiration of that term the powers were to consider whether it was necessary to increase the duties further. It is admitted that power was reserved to maintain or increase the duties beyond the minimum fixed by the article in those regions where they already possessed that right.

This article was doubtless framed with the intention of restricting the traffic in spirits, but at the same time to protect the commercial interests of the different countries which were represented at the Brussels conference.

The article and the spirit in which it was framed afford the strongest possible reasons why great changes should not be made in the absence of a further international agreement.

It may here be said that the spirit trade done through the British colonies is for the most part a transit trade, since the spirits are chiefly consumed in territories which, if reserved as British spheres of influence, have not yet been brought directly under British rule. The natives in these spheres have therefore the liberty, if they have the disposition, to revolt against the imposts. There is also the more immediate danger of losing this transit trade in spirits and other important and civilizing trade along with it. The carrying of spirits is likely to be done still more by German and French steamers, and British merchants will open branch houses for barter in foreign ports. There will exist a strong inducement to smuggle spirits from French and German ports through British territories into the hinterlands, and the coasts presenting most favorable opportunities to contrabandists, a large body of customs officers, entailing corresponding expenses, will be required to protect the revenue.

REMARKS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

It has been thought necessary to array the facts of the liquor trade as known by merchants, by their agents residing on the West Coast, and by the official classes. It now only remains

for the committee to make suggestions (1) for safeguarding the native and (2) the trader.

It is recommended that an inquiry should be instituted by royal commission or by competent authorities, of whom the Government have many at their command, into statements which have been made respecting the trade in spirits with West Africa and its effects. These statements were made at meetings held at home and abroad, in the reports of which by the home and colonial press it was noticed that hardly one substantial fact appeared supporting them:

1. That the native races of Africa are deteriorating through excessive consumption of spirits.

2. That drunkenness is increasing in native villages to an alarming extent. (*Suggestion:*) That surprise visits should be paid to the principal villages and native markets.

3. That the drunkenness is due to imported spirits and not to those of native manufacture, such as palm wine.

4. That the imported gin and rum, etc., are vile and poisonous liquids. (*Suggestion:*) That bottles be purchased and sent home for analysis.

5. That the importation of spirits is excessive in proportion to population.

And the committee would recommend further—

That the criminal statistics and reports on crime from the colonies should be investigated with the view of seeing whether they furnish evidence of such a state of things as is described.

The committee deem it most essential for the present maintenance and future development of British trade with West Africa that there should be a more complete understanding and uniformity of practice amongst all the European powers ruling on the coast as to duties levied on merchandise, including spirits. The inner boundaries of the colonies and protectorates, not to speak of those of mere spheres of influence, are ill-defined and generally unprotected.* Merchandise of a portable kind can be carried from foreign ports where lower duties are charged and exchanged in the hinterlands of British colonies, in which colonies the duties are on a higher scale, to the detriment of the colonial revenues and British traders, including carriers by sea.

* Were the boundaries better protected encounters between the natives and the preventive services would become frequent, as at the Niger, with corresponding loss of life.

Before a customs union was effected this applied to Togoland and the Gold Coast, and it may still apply to the northern rivers and to Liberia in relation to Sierra Leone, to French Benin in relation to Lagos, and to the Cameroons and Niger territories in relation to the Niger Coast protectorate. The committee therefore recommend—

1. That the duty list of the British and foreign colonies and protectorates on the West Coast of Africa be carefully collated and that an endeavor be made to effect an international customs union, which, while insuring a revenue for all reasonable purposes, would place competing traders of the various nationalities on a footing of equality.

They would also recommend—

2. That before any further advance be made in the spirit duties levied in the British colonies such an international agreement for uniform spirit duties be effected, the Brussels act showing that the European powers are well disposed, as a matter of trade policy and on humanitarian grounds, to come to such agreement.

3. If after inquiry it be found by the European powers that a further advance in the spirit duties is needed for revenue purposes or for the safeguard of the natives, those duties should be raised by installments, moderate in amount, and by preconcerted arrangement with the powers as to such amount and as to the dates from which the advanced duty should be paid, in order to prevent disorganization of trade and finance and any undue advantage being gained by one trader over another.

Finally, the committee wish to assure Her Majesty's government that they, as representing traders, have at least as strong a motive, viz., in the matter of self-interest, in the preservation of the native as any other class, and that they are willing at all times to consider how best to attain that end without needlessly jeopardizing British commerce.

It should not be forgotten by Her Majesty's government that in disorganization and loss to the trade of the West African colonies loss will be experienced by many home industries which are at present benefited largely by the African trade, and which it is hoped will be much more benefited in the future, since it has been the general experience of merchants that as the African colonies become better organized and more highly civilized the demand for the cruder or more hurtful manufactures is superseded by a demand for a different and more extensive class of merchandise.

In proof of this it may be observed that in the oldest possessions of Great Britain the imports of spirits are in smaller proportion to the whole imports than in the newer possessions.

ELLIS EDWARDS,
Chairman of the African Trade Section.
THOMAS H. BARKER,
Secretary.

October 31, 1895.

APPENDIX.

Copy of Extracts from Colonial Reports, Annual, Presented to Both Houses of Parliament.

No. 88.—GOLD COAST.

(Annual Report for 1892, rendered by Sir BRANDFORD GRIFFITH, K. C. M. G. *See* page 22.)

"With an estimated population of 1,473,882, this gives an average consumption of about six-sevenths gallon per head; but there is no doubt that a large quantity of the spirits imported into the colony finds its way into Ashanti and other interior countries not within the protectorate, and that three-fourths gallon per head more nearly approximates to accuracy.

In the United Kingdom, with its population of 38,000,000, the annual consumption of spirits is, roughly, 39,000,000 gallons, and of beer 31,000,000 barrels, besides other strong drinks. It is clear, therefore, that the consumption of alcoholic drinks on the Gold Coast compares very favorably with that of the United Kingdom. Drunkenness on the Gold Coast is comparatively uncommon. East of the river Volta, where, on account of the low duties, rum can be purchased for three pence a bottle and where, therefore, if the importation of spirits into the midst of the natives has the demoralizing influence so often contended for it, the effects would be at once visible, there is absolutely no increase of drunkenness apparent. It would seem, therefore, that the West African native is not without a proper appreciation of the advantages of temperate habits."

No. 136.—Gold Coast.

(Annual Report for 1892, rendered by Sir Brandford Griffith, K. C. M. G. *See* page 18.)

"In my report on the Gold Coast for 1892 I pointed out that the consumption of alcoholic liquors by the natives of this part of West Africa was far less than it is in the United Kingdom, and that there is insufficient ground for the contention, so often put forward, that the native is being ruined, body and soul, by what is stigmatized as the nefarious liquor traffic.

"The native knows very well how to take care of himself, and a consumption of less than a gallon of spirits per annum per head of the population, which is what the statistics show, cannot well be considered to be excessive. Assuming that only half the population gets sight and taste of imported alcohol, one and three-fourths gallons per head per annum would give an infinitesimal daily allowance to each person. I repeat what I have said before, that drunkenness in the Gold Coast is comparatively uncommon, and that east of the Volta, where, on account of the low duties, rum can be purchased for three pence a bottle and where, therefore, if the importation of spirits into the midst of the natives has the demoralizing influence so often contended for it, the effect would at once be visible, there is absolutely no increase of drunkenness apparent."

Extract from Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, August, 1891, to August, 1894 (Africa, No. 1, 1895) [*C 7596*].

Old Calabar.

"The evils of the liquor traffic in West Africa have been much spoken of, and the fact that the revenue of this protectorate, as well as that of all the West African colonies, is to a great extent dependent upon this traffic has been considerably commented upon. There is, however, something to be said on the other side. In the first place, it must be remembered that this liquor traffic has formed a very considerable part of the import trade of this part, at any rate, of the West Coast for upwards of a century, and that to suddenly put a complete stop to it would very seriously affect the entire conditions of trade, if it did not paralyze them altogether, and would certainly not assist the cause of temper-

ance to an appreciable degree, for the natives manufacture a liquor from the palm tree which is as potent under certain conditions of fermentation as anything that has ever been imported into the protectorate. In the present conditions of trade it would be impossible to substitute any other import duty without altogether ruining the trade of the protectorate. It must be remembered that at present it is the liquor traffic that supplies a revenue which enables the administration to deal with the many crying evils on which I have touched but too lightly, as any one who has dwelt amidst them can testify.

"Mr. Hodgson, acting governor of the Gold Coast, in a very able report published in September, 1893, gives statistics respecting the liquor traffic in the Gold Coast territories, from which it would appear that in 1892 the importation of rum and alcoholic liquors was 1,295,132 gallons. Mr. Hodgson states as follows: This, with an estimated population of 1,473,882, gives an average consumption of about six-sevenths gallon per head; but there is no doubt that a large quantity of the spirits imported into the colony finds its way into Ashanti and other interior countries not within the protectorate, and that three-fourths gallon per head is more nearly approximate to accuracy.

"In the United Kingdom, with its population of 38,000,000, the annual consumption of spirits is roughly 39,000,000 gallons and of beer 31,000,000 barrels, besides other strong drinks. It is clear, therefore, that the consumption of alcoholic drinks on the Gold Coast compares very favorably with that of the United Kingdom.

"Drunkenness on the Gold Coast is comparatively uncommon east of the Volta, where, on account of the low duties, rum can be purchased for three pence a bottle, and where, therefore, if the importation of spirits into the midst of the natives has the demoralizing influence so often contended for it, the effects would be at once visible, there is absolutely no increase of drunkenness apparent. It would seem, therefore, that the West African native is not without a proper appreciation of the advantages of temperate habits.

"From my own experience I can state that the African native would certainly appear to be fully aware of the advantages of temperance. I have seen more drunkenness in some of the larger towns of Great Britain in the course of one hour than I

have in the eight years I have been connected with Africa, East and West. This does not, of course, go to prove that the liquor traffic is anything but bad, but the evils thereof, I would suggest, are exaggerated. They are certainly not to be compared with those which are being suppressed by the help of the money raised by taxing the said traffic."

Extracts from Report on the Administration of the Niger Coast Protectorate, 1894–'95. (*Africa, No. 9, 1895*) [*C 7916*].

Page 5.—"The behavior of the men is excellent. Though their barracks are within a short distance of three native towns, where any amount of drink may be obtained, drunkenness is very rare and military offenses of a serious nature unknown.

"These men come from the Yoruba country, which lies at the back of Lagos, and which country has been stated to be 'flooded with gin,' notwithstanding which I am bound to say that a cleaner, smarter, or more sober body of native soldiery it would be difficult to meet. They give far less trouble, so far as drink is concerned, than would a body of British soldiers placed in similar circumstances.

"They are Mohammedans, but of a decidedly easy-going sect."

Page 13.—"Much has recently been said and written on the subject of the liquor traffic.

"I cannot judge of other parts of West Africa, but with regard to the Niger Coast protectorate I may be permitted to speak with some authority. There are, I submit, worse evils than drunkenness. Some of these have been for ages and still are customs of this country. They are: cannibalism, human sacrifice, ordeal by poison, sasswood, calabar bean, etc.; this latter alone claims many hundreds of victims yearly, the murder of twins and the murder or perpetual disgrace of the mother; intertribal wars attended with the usual horrors of killing and sometimes eating of the prisoners taken; traffic in slaves and the general rule 'might is right,' and the cruel oppression of the weak by the strong.

"To endeavor to make head against all these a strong and independent administration is requisite; to maintain that administration a revenue is necessary. Could the liquor traffic be entirely and immediately done away with and a sufficient reve-

nue be obtained from other sources, I for one would be very glad. This much-to-be-desired end is at present, and so far as this protectorate is concerned, I regret to say, not feasible.

"It has been stated that the amount of drunkenness in these regions has been greatly exaggerated, and that the African for sobriety compares very favorably with his white brother. I do not suppose this is put forward as an argument in extenuation of the liquor traffic, but it is without doubt a fact, both the exaggeration and the comparison—I have seen more drunkenness in one fast-day in Glasgow than I have during my thirteen years' experience of Africa, east, north, and west.

"There is another point I would wish to touch on with respect to this question. It must be remembered that as the export of palm oil is now a trade of many years' standing, so also is the import of gin a trade of some considerable antiquity. Were this spirit traffic a thing of yesterday it could be stamped out in a day. It has, unfortunately (together with fire-arms), formed the staple import trade of these regions for upward of a century. To endeavor to do away with it by a stroke of the pen would, I submit, do more harm than good and defeat the aims of the philanthropically inclined. To do away with it gradually and by slow degrees is, I think, possible and preferable. I may add that the importation of trade spirits for the year 1894–'95 shows a decrease when compared with 1893–'94 of 836,817 gallons, representing a loss to the revenue of £41,840 17s."

Extract from Address by Mr. Hesketh J. Bell, Senior Assistant Treasurer Gold Coast Colony, to the African Trade Section of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, May 1, 1893 (*see pages 24 to 28*).

IMPORT TRADE.

The principal articles imported into the Gold Coast are spirits, cotton goods, specie, tobacco, and gunpowder.

The trade in spirits has increased more rapidly than that of any other article of import, and in six years has almost doubled itself. In 1886 the total quantity of gin and rum landed in the settlement amounted to 601,631 gallons, valued at £65,528; in 1891 the imports were 1,190,373 gallons, valued at £109,000.

These figures have an imposing and perhaps not a pleasant sound, but although we read and hear a great deal about the

wholesale demoralization of the West African natives by the floods of villainous spirits which are being annually poured into the land it would, perhaps, be well to look under the surface and go into the real aspect of the case.

1,200,000 gallons of liquor certainly appear an immense amount, but if we turn up statistics nearer home we find that the annual consumption of spirits in Great Britain is no less than 39,000,000 gallons, apart from 31,000,000 barrels of beer, and also other strong drinks. The population of Great Britain and Ireland is about 38,000,000, which gives us an average consumption of about one gallon of spirits for each man, woman, and child. The population of the Gold Coast and its immediate protectorate is over 1,500,000, and it would consequently appear that, notwithstanding all the cries of alarm which are periodically raised anent their demoralization by drink, the consumption of spirits by these benighted people is a good deal less than the amount annually swallowed by their civilized white brethren.

The alarm is still less justified when we remember that the ports of the Gold Coast are the feeders, not only of the 1,500,000 inhabitants of the settlement and its protectorate, but that they are also the distributors of spirits and other European commodities to the far greater populations of the regions beyond. In fact, any one who has inhabited the Gold Coast knows full well that not one-fourth of the spirits imported into the colony are consumed by the inhabitants of the seaboard, but that by far the greater quantity is purchased and removed by the traders from Ashanti, Gamon, Krepi, and other countries out of the protectorate. It will consequently be allowed that 1,200,000 gallons of spirits distributed among 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 negroes in the course of a year can hardly do any very great amount of harm, more especially when we consider that it takes two or three times as much alcohol to inebriate a negro as it does to put a white man into a similar condition.

There is far less drunkenness on the Gold Coast than there is in Great Britain, and the sight of a man in a hopelessly intoxicated condition is very rare on the West Coast of Africa. To get really drunk would cost a native more than he could often afford, for to fuddle a black is an expensive operation, and it is well known on the coast that the only natives who can and may drink to excess are the chiefs and other men of means.

The process of inebriation being an expensive one on the seaboard, it becomes almost prohibitive in the interior. Owing to the want of good roads or other means of communication, all the spirits purchased by the native traders must be carried inland on the heads of human carriers. So expensive is this transport that a bottle of rum bought on the coast for nine pence or a shilling costs three or four shillings when it has been carried a hundred miles inland. It will, then, readily be seen that intoxication at that price can only be indulged in by men of wealth and position.

The ordinary stimulant which lies ready to the hand of the native is palm wine. This liquor is drawn from the same palm as that which supplies the oil of commerce. It is obtained by tapping or cutting down the tree, and becomes intoxicating when allowed to ferment. Rum and gin are only used to any great extent on such occasions as weddings, funerals, or palavers, and it is really difficult to perceive so far the terrible effects which it is said are being caused by the large importations of spirits on the habits, conditions, or physique of the West African natives.

By the foregoing I have not intended to defend for one moment the evils attendant on any excessive consumption of intoxicating spirits, and as two wrongs can never amount to a right, neither can the very excessive consumption of alcohol by the civilized inhabitants of Great Britain defend a similar unhappy practice among the untutored natives of West Africa. I have only endeavored to show that the evil, whatever it be, already done is not so great as one is led to fear and suppose.

I am the less inclined to defend the liquor traffic on the Gold Coast for the reason that British trade at present derives very little benefit from it. Rum and gin are imported from foreign countries—the United States, France, and Germany. The liquor is carried mostly by foreign shipping and is principally sold on the coast by alien factories.

The liquor trade on the Gold Coast, for some reason or other, has divided the colony into two districts. To the westward of the Volta river the natives appear to prefer rum to gin, and two-thirds of the liquor is supplied by American sailing vessels, which continually cruise along the seaboard. To the east of the Volta, and especially at Kitta, the spirit trade is almost entirely in the hands of the Germans, who import rum and gin

from Hamburg in German shipping. Lately a very important French firm has established factories at Kitta, Adda, and Accra, and large quantities of French rum are being sold by them.

French and German rum costs little more than half the price of American spirit, and it is to be feared that its quality is of the worst description.

In 1890 it was found that the trade of the Kitta district was being ruined owing to the formidable competition exercised by the contiguous German protectorate of Togoland, where the duty on spirits only amounted to 1½d. per gallon, while the tax in our territory was half a crown a gallon. Smuggling over the border was carried on to such an extent that the preventive service proved insufficient to cope with it. Our government then made a special tariff for Kitta, lowering the duty on rum to almost the same rate as that levied in Togoland. The result of this move made itself immediately apparent. The trade of Kitta rose at a bound, and, owing to the preference always evinced by the natives for trading under the British government rather than with Germans, the Togoland revenues decreased in the same proportion as those of Kitta multiplied. The Germans, however, not to be beaten, simply transferred their factories to Kitta, and they now trade and barter under English government with more advantage and facility than they would enjoy under their own paternal rule. So successful are they at Kitta that out of the eleven most important factories established in that district eight are German, two French, and one English.

The single district of Kitta now imports half as much spirits as the whole of the other districts of the colony put together; and it is not altogether pleasing to reflect that this very remarkable and rapid increase of trade should in a British colony turn only to the profit of foreign traders, who use foreign capital, employ foreign clerks, import foreign goods, and give freight to foreign ships.

It is also interesting to note that in the Kitta district, where rum, owing to the very low duties imposed, can be bought for three pence a bottle, drunkenness among the natives is not more apparent there than in other parts of the colony, where liquor costs four times as much. This would tend to show that the West African Negro can take care of himself, and that he can appreciate, even better perhaps than his superior white brother, the advantages of temperate habits.

Extract from a Recent Letter from an Opobo Trader.

Opobo district may be said to have a coast line of 70 miles, say from the Andoney river to beyond the Qua Eboe; inland it is impossible to assign a limit. All native traders will agree that spirits and other cargo, in addition to local consumption, are bartered from tribe to tribe, and change hands innumerable times, and spread over a district reaching hundreds of miles into the interior. Bende, probably 100 to 120 miles inland, appears to be the great metropolis of this part of the coast, and is undoubtedly a great distributing center, but it is too little known to speak of with any degree of accuracy.

Beyond the fringe of mangrove swamps on the coast the region is very densely peopled, as shown by the very large extent of land under cultivation, principally cassada.

While it is impossible to estimate correctly the population of a region so vast and so little known, it doubtless numbers several millions, and if, say, 500,000 gallons of spirits are consumed by 5,000,000 people, the proportion is only $\frac{1}{10}$th gallon each per annum, equal to $\frac{1}{120}$th gallon per month, and therefore the consumption of spirits individually per annum is infinitely small. It must be evident that only a small percentage drink spirits at all, or only on very rare occasions, which I believe to be the case.

It should be borne in mind that every gallon of spirits consumed over the whole district is duly taken into account at ports of entry; there are no outside supplies, and the art of distilling is unknown to the natives.

Coast gin is generally 25 per cent. U. P., while rum averages 10 per cent. U. P. In spite of its lesser degree of strength, gin is more popular than rum, which would appear to indicate that it is not altogether the potent spirit the natives have a craving for.

In Opobo Town, with a considerable population and where all the spirits imported into the district are landed, drunkenness is far from common, and although there are several isolated cases of it, *excessive drinking* does not prevail, and, to speak without exaggeration, Opobo would, so far as sobriety is concerned, compare very favorably with any town of a similar size in England.

A great number of the Opobo traders are, as a matter of fact, abstainers, and, with one or two exceptions, are all very moderate drinkers indeed. When the canoemen bring down the

produce they invariably prefer English food to drink, and their constant cry is "ekkikka" (bread) and "nama" (beef or pork).

At all the big native plays, tumbo or palm wine is the chief drink, and when it is taken in excessively large quantities it is an intoxicant, and I have no doubt causes more drunkenness than spirits.

The immediate purchasers from the Opobo native traders of the spirits imported are the Qua tribes, more on the coast, and the Eboes, further inland. The following are a few of the very great number of local markets:

Qua.		Eboe.
Essene.	Koefa.	Ohumbala
Acquah.	Mɔnquhoo.	Obunka.
Minimaffa.	Obuago.	Ogogo.
Rhumboro.	Ekweji.	Acquitta.
Oppogra.	M'prepre.	Assa.
Orata.	Azumina.	

And others too numerous to mention.

It might almost be reasonably expected that drunkenness was very common in these great distributing centers, but such is certainly not the case, and it is only on very rare occasions that a drunken person is to be met with. So far as I recollect, King Wombosa, of Obuago, is the only person of any standing who is an habitual drunkard. Taking into consideration the vast area over which the spirits imported into the Opobo district are spread and the dense population of same, the only matter of surprise is that the import is so small. The real reason is that the Negro, with all his faults, is not an immoderate drinker (this appears to be a vice more pertaining to civilization). The average Negro, with inherent acquisitiveness, does not like parting with his money in any quantity for drink. On the coast I have personally always found a small amount of stimulant necessary and conducive to health, and a safeguard against the miasma everywhere arising from the decomposing vegetable matter, and probably the native has a similar experience.

Whatever may have been urged to the contrary by a certain section of the community, the importation of spirits is certainly not the cause of the low status of the Negro in civilization, nor is it a retarding influence. This may be traced more directly to their gross superstitions, their jujus (more generally known as

fetishism), their cannibalism, and general brutish ignorance and cruel nature, their wholesale poisonings, all of which are quite beside the question of drink. Their system of slavery, too, does not tend to civilization, although it does not quite wear the hideous aspect there generally supposed. It is in some respects a system of clan life, and that the condition of a slave is not absolutely hopeless is proved by the fact that Jaja, late king of Opobo, was formerly a slave bought from the interior, while at the present moment one of the chiefs of Opobo, Abranga, head of the Woga Dappa house, was bought as a slave up country not a great many years ago.

The Royal Niger Company appear to take great credit for their small importation of spirits and profess to be actuated by a desire not to corrupt the natives; but I believe it is not sufficiently known that a very great proportion of their goods are distributed among the interior Mohammedan tribes, who are, on religious grounds, generally abstainers from spirituous liquors.

In conclusion, I would say that if the spirit trade on the coast caused one tithe of the misery and social wreckage that the same trade does in England I could better understand the outcry against it, but after living twenty years on the coast I utterly fail to see any evil effects resulting from the trade in question.

Value and Quantity of Spirits Imported from 1889 to 1893 into the Gambia, with the Proportionate Percentage of their Value to that of Total Imports, less Specie.

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Brandy	.....	.....	£353	£264	£159
Gin	£828	£722	795	1,391	1,153
Rum	1,909	1,799	2,490	2,155	2,517
Whisky and other spirits	.....	.....	432	587	552
Total of spirits	£2,737	£2,521	£4,070	£4,397	£4,381
Specie	24,266	27,101	27,058	38,099	20,393
Grand total (less specie)	116,552	122,498	134,071	131,874	146,116

Proportion of spirits for 1889, 2⅔ per cent.; 1890, 2 per cent.; 1891, 3 per cent.; 1892, 3⅓ per cent.; 1893, 3 per cent. Average proportion for the five years, 2½ per cent.

Total quantity of above-named spirits imported in 1891, 41,270 gallons; 1892, 36,433 gallons; 1893, 48,806 gallons. Average quantity per annum for the three years, 42,170 gallons.

Value and Quantity of Spirits Imported from 1889 to 1893 into Sierra Leone, with the Proportionate Percentage of their Value to that of Total Imports, less Specie.

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Brandy	.....	.....	£822	£1,789	£1,227
Gin	£8,507	£9,180	9,859	7,590	8,989
Rum	14,946	18,483	19,125	15,787	13,158
Whisky and other spirits	.....	.....	3,697	5,639	3,959
Total of spirits	£23,453	£27,663	£33,503	£30,803	£27,333
Specie	7,558	18,537	15,039	5,753	6,695
Grand total (less specie)	328,269	371,371	438,339	407,364	410,771

Proportion of spirits for 1889, 7⅛ per cent.; 1890, 7½ per cent.; 1891, 7½ per cent.; 1892, 7½ per cent.; 1893, 6½ per cent. Average proportion for the five years, 7¼ per cent.

Total amount of above-named spirits imported in 1889, 320,756 gallons; 1890, 327,705 gallons; 1891, 313,047 gallons; 1892, 284,539 gallons; 1893, 253,398 gallons. Average quantity per annum for the five years, 299,889 gallons.

Value and Quantity of Spirits Imported from 1889 to 1893 into the Gold Coast, with the Proportionate Percentage of their Value to that of Total Imports, less Specie.

	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Brandy	£341	£323	£379	£378	£660
Gin	10,635	15,195	19,392	18,542	22,608
Rum	33,755	60,572	78,556	75,936	76,212
Whisky	1,488	1,893	2,006	1,990	2,656
Total of spirits	£46,219	£77,983	£100,333	£96,846	£102,136
Specie	40,296	119,415	86,479	48,025	91,876
Grand total (less specie)	400,572	442,688	579,302	549,069	626,479

Proportion of spirits for 1889, 11½ per cent.; 1890, 17½ per cent.; 1891, 17⅓ per cent.; 1892, 17½ per cent.; 1893, 16¼ per cent. Average proportion for the five years, 16⅔ per cent.

Total quantity of above-named spirits imported in 1889, 502,002 gallons; 1890, 971,959 gallons; 1891, 1,252,368 gallons; 1892, 1,254,975 gallons; 1893, 1,450,584 gallons. Average quantity per annum for the five years 1,086,390 gallons.

Value and Quantity of Spirits Imported from 1890 to 1894 into Lagos, with the Proportionate Percentage of their Value to that of Total Imports, less Specie.

[N. B.—This table includes spirits and other merchandise in transit.]

	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Brandy	£488	£295	£202	£185	£172
Brandy, transit	78	20	28	30	28
Gin	47,629	55,515	42,104	55,209	82,457
Gin, transit	2,242	10,939	16,652	5,216	2,049
Rum	32,905	41,342	22,267	21,014	32,666
Rum, transit	4,332	9,253	7,416	12,059	8,149
Whisky	469	774	1,203	1,412	1,402
Whisky, transit	11	5	50	112	20
Total of spirits (with transit)	£88,154	£118,143	£89,922	£95,237	£126,943
Specie	60,812	79,880	72,076	119,617	43,380
Grand total (less specie)	440,015	570,311	449,965	629,409	701,179

Proportion of spirits for 1890, 20 per cent.; 1891, 20½ per cent.; 1892, 20 per cent.; 1893, 15 per cent.; 1894, 18 per cent. Average proportion for the five years, 18½ per cent.

Total quantity of above-named spirits imported in 1890, 1,221,123 gallons; 1891, 1,482,166 gallons; 1892, 1,146,568 gallons; 1893, 1,681,072 gallons; 1894, 1,867,125 gallons. Average quantity per annum for the five years, 1,479,610 gallons.

Total quantity of same exported to Porto Novo in 1890, 182,767 gallons; 1891, 310,218 gallons; 1892, 430,327 gallons; 1893, 359,920 gallons; 1894, 239,528 gallons. Average quantity per annum exported, 304,552 gallons.

Value and Quantity of Spirits Imported for 1892–'93, 1893–'94, and 1894–'95 into the Niger Coast Protectorate, with the Proportionate Percentage of their Value to that of Total Imports, less Specie.

	1892–'93.	1893–'94.	1894–'95.
Brandy	£519	£397	£332
Gin	68,490	160,793	107,704
Rum	51,722	55,233	34,326
Whisky	1,580	1,738	1,790
Total of spirits	£122,311	£218,161	£144,152
Specie	27,732	32,848	31,288
Grand total (less specie)	699,184	896,484	708,576

Proportion of spirits for 1892–'93, 17½ per cent.; 1893–'94, 24⅓ per cent.; 1894–'95, 20⅓ per cent. Average proportion for the three years, 21 per cent.

Total quantity of above-named spirits imported in 1892–'93, 1,376,927 gallons; 1893–'94, 2,615,151 gallons; 1894–'95, 1,778,334 gallons. Average quantity per annum for the three years, 1,923,471 gallons.

THE SITUATION IN THE TRANSVAAL.

The Boers, the founders of the South African Republic, are no longer in a numerical majority in consequence of the recent great mining development, which has attracted such large numbers of people from Europe, and England especially; and the conditions of government which served very well fifteen years ago are now no longer suitable or even possible, as under the present regime the franchise is practically denied to all but a mere handful of the people representing the original settlers, and English, French, and Germans alike, while contributing far and away the largest proportion of the national revenue, are debarred from any voice in its expenditure. This state of things has for some time past been felt to be intolerable, and things appear now to have come to such a pass that civil war appears to be imminent unless President Kruger and his advisers are prepared to give to the large foreign element of the population that share in the government of the country to which their numbers and commercial importance so justly entitle them. The Transvaal National Union is a political body organized within the last few years for the purpose of educating public opinion in the Transvaal and to bring home to Uitlander and Boer alike the anomalous conditions under which the government of the republic is carried on. Its programme was one of constitutional agitation, by which it hoped that reforms could gradually be brought about and concessions obtained which would satisfy the requirements of the foreign population. The issues at stake in the mining centers indicated this course as the most desirable to pursue. Subsequent events have given, unfortunately, little encouragement to the earlier methods of the National Union, and it has been driven to adopt an aggressive attitude. The union last year organized and presented a petition to the raad praying for the extension of the franchise to the qualified Uitlander and signed by 13,000 Uitlanders, who declared their readiness to take the necessary oath of allegiance to the republic. When that petition was rejected the National Union organized a petition to the British high commissioner, signed by an even larger number of persons, and this step represented a deliberate parting of the ways in the policy of the Uitlander agitation. Up to

the moment of the rejection of the petition for franchise by the raad, the Uitlanders had believed that to those who were prepared to take the oath of allegiance to the state, burgher rights would in due time be extended. The change of feeling produced by the rejection of the petition was announced amid deafening cheers by the chairman of the National Union at the annual meeting of 1894: "When we are told that we are not citizens and cannot be, then we must turn to our own sovereignty." Appeal to the suzerain power of Great Britain had never before been invoked in a matter dealing with the internal administration of the Transvaal. From the date of the petition to Sir Henry Loch such an appeal has figured as a possible resort upon the programme of the National Union. Last year there was still hope that the Transvaal government would listen to representations. This year that hope has been reduced to vanishing point. The men who cheered Mr. Leonard's bill of rights last year were recording a protest. The men who accept the manifesto which it is proposed to present to them on January 6 will accept the responsibility of enforcing it.

It is well to bear in mind that the object of the Uitlanders is not at all to overturn the republic which they have done so much to develop. Their desire is to reform institutions which are suitable to the character of the people and the genius of the place. The demand they make is for their proper representation in the republic. The present condition of the franchise law of the Transvaal is such as to amount in the result to a refusal forever of full burghers' rights to the alien. Its provisions are that after two years' residence and naturalization the right to vote for the second raad is acquired. After a further period of twelve years the naturalized Uitlander may, by a special resolution of the first raad and a petition of two-thirds of the burghers of his ward, be admitted to the position of a burgher with full voting rights; but if after the fourteen years of probation the first raad should decline to pass a special resolution, or he should fail to obtain the votes of two-thirds of the burghers of his ward in his favor, he may be still excluded from the right to exercise an effective vote. In order to understand the full force of the law it is necessary to understand the difference between the first raad and the second raad. The resolutions of the second raad remain ineffectual unless the president submits them to the first raad and they re-

ceive the sanction of that body. They are thus subject to a double check: first, the arbitrary decision of the head of the State, who may, if he so pleases, forbid them to be presented for the consideration of the legislature; secondly, the chance of rejection by the first raad. The whole real power of the State, including taxation, resides in the first raad, which is composed of four and twenty members, and in the executive council, which, inclusive of the president, numbers ten or twelve persons, of whom a considerable proportion are of foreign Dutch birth. The president, if supported by thirteen votes in the raad, is absolute master of the lives, the liberties, and the fortunes of every resident in the Transvaal, and fourteen men can thus control and promulgate the laws by which thousands who have no voice are governed. The position, which would be regarded as extraordinary in an old country, is without parallel in young countries. The Transvaal Republic in its present form has existed for only fifteen years, and for ten years of that period the Uitlander has been actively engaged in developing the resources and establishing the position of the country; so the injustice of excluding the Uitlander from the exercise of representative rights on the mere fact of a five years' term of previous authority becomes apparent.

The only franchise which is worth the Uitlander's claiming is the full right to vote for the first raad and the presidential election. The proposal that he should sacrifice his own nationality and become a naturalized subject of the Transvaal for the sake of obtaining a right to vote for the second raad is simply absurd, while the fact that the petition praying for admission to the real franchise presented this year to the raad was signed by 38,000 persons, who signified their readiness to take the oath of allegiance to the republic, disposes of the objection that the Uitlanders desire to have the rights without accepting the responsibilities of citizens.

A fair share in the representation of the country would, the Uitlanders contend, carry with it all that they are in justice entitled to demand. Reform of abuses in the administration would follow. The reforms to be initiated are of such a character that the only surprise of the civilized world will be that a community in which it is necessary to formulate such demands can have carried on its existence for fifteen years without convulsion. Equality of representation, equality of taxation, equality of lan-

guage, equality of law, the responsibility of the administration to the legislature, the removal of religious disabilities, a fair system of public education, and the independence of the courts of justice are among the more prominent of the Uitlanders' requirements. With all these they desire to maintain the republican institutions of the State in which they live. They declare themselves to be animated by no race animosity and have no wish to deprive a single citizen of his legitimate rights. The state of affairs has become such that the alternative lies between these two, and we hope that in considering the gravity of the crisis President Kruger will make concessions satisfactory to the sober-minded leaders of the movement at Johannesburg.—*The African Times.*

NATIVE RACES AND EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION.

It would not be easy to overrate the importance of the questions that formed the subject of lively debate in the Anthropological Section of the British Association last evening, especially to a nation like ourselves, who are in contact in every corner of the world with ancient and alien civilizations and with native races in every stage of development. The general sense of the section was with the president, Prof. Flinders Petrie, and with Lord Stanmore, Mr. Cust, and the other speakers, who warned well meaning people at home and abroad of the dangers of rash and intolerant interference with native customs and institutions, and pointed out that the true road of progress was along the lines already laid down by the local conditions of race, climate, and history, and that the experiment of trying to make Anglo-Saxons out of Hindoos, Arabs, or black men from the Congo was doomed to end in disappointment to the operator and probably in extinction to those operated upon. Many worthy men and women go on an entirely opposite principle. The more they interfere with native practices and prejudices in the matter, say, of dress, and substitute for those their own prejudices and practices on the same subject, the more thoroughly, in their own estimation, are they doing service to God and man. They are not dissuaded from carrying on their self-appointed task by the fact that "improving the native," conducted on these lines, is apt to improve

him out of existence, and the explanation probably is that they are kept, or manage to keep themselves, in blissful ignorance of the truth on this matter. The error is, perhaps, most often committed by missionaries and those who contribute to missionary funds, but it is one as to which the best type of missionary is not oblivious and one that is the great rock ahead and obstruction to true missionary work. The common sense of the churches should now be almost prepared to back up the sense of the men of science and the men of the world in discarding the superstition that the wearing of trousers or petticoats should be made a test either of Christianity or civilization, or that the gauge of progress in religion and morality should be found in an aptitude for pattering off a number of Scripture texts. It is true that some of the speakers on the non-interference side were inclined, like other instructors in morals and behavior, to ride their hobby rather far. The president of the section laid down in a previous paper the whole proposition that the tendency of book education when applied to the peasantry of Egypt was to make the recipients half-witted. Yesterday in taking exception to certain comments we had made on the subject he explained that his remarks did not have a bearing on the education of the Copts and town-bred populations generally, who had some "hereditary" acquaintance with letters, but to the children of the fellahin of the country districts. Results must, he said, be judged not from what is seen in the schools, but by the effects witnessed in a long series of after years. Few Europeans have had such opportunities as Professor Petrie for judging of the characters and capabilities of the rural population of Egypt. So far as his conclusions are drawn from his own observation, there will be no desire to combat them; but he seems to be inclined to push the doctrine of heredity somewhat too far. Education, whether it be in letters or in other arts, and whether applied to the town-bred or the country-bred, to children or to adults, should of course be applied judiciously. There appears to be no necessary connection between learning to read and write and idiocy, and, indeed, the process has usually been regarded as a step and a weapon of intellectual progress; and with regard to the fellahin, it might be contended that it is high time that a beginning was made in laying in them the foundation for the hereditary acquirement of letters. Then something, if not everything, can surely be gathered of the value and

influence of an educational system from what can be witnessed in the schools, while with regard to the effect of the existing system upon the general progress and intelligence of the Egyptian race it is, perhaps, too soon for a definite judgment to be pronounced on the subject, even by an authority on anthropology. As has been said, there is danger in pushing the idea of non-interference, as well as that of interference, too far, although the former may be the safer error of the two. After all, where there may be, according to Prof. Flinders Petrie's proposition, merit in all races and civilizations, there are degrees of merit. Thoughts and habits, religious and moral among the rest, have before now been known to stand the test of transplantation to a new soil when care and wisdom have been exercised in the process. Man is an imitative animal, and Professor Petrie will hardly contend that the type of civilization and the moral ideas which he represents are not, on the whole, better worth imitation and study than those of the native Egyptians. The presence and example of a superior and ruling race are as potent and legitimate an agent in introducing changes and modifications into the lives and customs of the people of the Nile as is climate or hereditary prejudice, provided, as has been said, that they are employed with wisdom and proper knowledge. It is not even sound science or sound sense to lay down absolutely that the things to be taught should not include what is "peculiar to the age or race" of the teachers. The teachings of modern sanitary science may be said to belong to the present age and to Christendom, and yet there is nothing that Egypt and the Egyptians, whether of the town or the country, are in more need of having impressed upon them. Interference and not non-interference, however, has been the besetting sin of the official emissaries of Western civilization and of Christianity in their attempts to rule and raise the rest of the world, and there is no great harm—there is much good—in having its evils set forth with such impressive emphasis, high authority, and general unanimity as were witnessed at the British Association.—*Scotsman.*

The articles we reproduce in our impression of today on the above subject will no doubt be read with much interest and appreciation by all intelligent Negroes. At a time when the effect of European civilization upon Africans is awakening a general

feeling of anxiety and concern among Negroes in all parts of Africa, it comes as a happy coincidence that a topic bearing immediately on this question should form one of the subject-matters of discussion by the Anthropological Section of the British Association. There can be no doubt that as regards the Negro of West Africa experience shows that the attempt to civilize him upon European methods in Africa is doomed to end in disappointment to the operator and extinction to the subject operated upon. Results of the efforts in this direction for a long serious of years show that they have only had the effect of weakening the capability of the Negro as a man, and what is worse, still threaten him with extinction. In the interest of the preservation of the race, it behooves that this subject should receive greater attention and interest on all sides. The fact is patent that the rush being made by Negroes in Africa into the habits and customs of the Anglo-Saxon is a rush to complete and utter extinction. The Negro can only survive and progress on lines laid down by the local conditions of his race, climate, and history, and the rash experiment of missionaries and others which has lifted him from these lines and placed him in an element which is abnormal to him has had the effect of simply ruining him both morally and physically. It is high time now that the Negro should know that trousers and petticoats are not a test of either Christianity or civilization, and that the gauge of progress in religion and morality is not determined by the singing of psalms and pattering off of Scripture texts; and should know further that education in letters only is most likely to induce imbecility if it does not produce idiocy. The matter is a most serious one from every point of view for the Negro, and should have his earnest and deep consideration. The wail of Bishop Ingham, in his retrospect of Sierra Leone after a civilizing experiment of a hundred years, is but an indication of the identical prospect presented in the other civilized communities on the coast, and unless a retrograde movement is taken and a start made on the right lines, there is virtually no hope for this Negro element which has been foisted into European civilization. The subject is most exhaustively dealt with in the articles which we reproduce and which we would commend to the thoughtful consideration of our people. We can only supplement the suggestions put forth with the warning that no matter

how fascinating and alluring this foreign civilization may appear, a close assimilation with it by the Negro in Africa means death and extinction.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA.

The following official statement of the receipts and disbursements of the Republic of Liberia for the year commencing October 1, 1894, and ending September 30, 1895, was received through the courtesy of United States Minister Heard, and shows a small balance on the wrong side of the account, excusable this time on account of extraordinary expenses incurred in purchasing and maintaining another gunboat for policing the coast:

Receipts of Public Moneys in the Republic of Liberia for the Fiscal Year Beginning October 1, 1894, and Ending September 30, 1895; also Disbursements.

Tariff, etc.:

From imports, exports, etc.	$134,984 05
From internal revenue	20,514 39
From miscellaneous	6,495 30
Total	$161,993 74
Balance	10,286 54
	$172,280 28

Disbursements:

Disbursements to sundry accounts	$172,280 28

Correct; from the books of this office.

L. B. Andrews,
Comptroller of the Treasury of Liberia.

PROGRESS.

This is an age of progress, truthfully called "electric" age. The whole civilized world is in a mighty commotion, hurrying up the giddy heights of fame, where crowned heads, who lived in ages past, could not reach. Search history and find if you can a period so impregnated with the true spirit of progress. The

nations are vieing with each other in every laudable pursuit of life; the rivalry at times becomes so great, national enthusiasm runs so high, that mortal combat is resorted to and crowns the victor at the price of blood. That people or race who sits down in the midst of the pressing busy multitudes, that nation that will not keep pace with the times, will either soon beg its daily bread or be crushed to death beneath the ponderous wheels of progress.

In the United States of America men are so imbued with the spirit of progress that they have tamed the lightning and made it conducive to the development of practical industry. By its power cars speed along with wonderful rapidity, cities are lighted up with almost as much brilliancy at night as though divinity had thrown out a night sun in the midst of space.

Progress is written in blazing letters on the revolving wheels of manufactories; it is seen in the university and college halls. The plowman and reaper have joined hands with this great dominating influence that drives with power everything before it. The spirit of the age is progress. Europe and America have well nigh conquered the world with the giant arm of moral, educational, and industrial progress.

As a race we must crown our efforts with more success. We must become inspired with the spirit of the age. The black man seems to be the child of misfortune. He is being outstripped by every nation on the earth save the Indian. The infernal gods, it appears, have decreed that the black man shall not succeed.

It is a lamentable fact that the Negro race is doing but little along the lines of real progress. With all the boast of the American Negroes, they have done nothing of material worth that demands consideration in the face of the progress of the nineteenth century. Take from our American brethren the church and educational advancement made by them and they stand bare before the gaze of the world. Men in Liberia can boast more of a name than they can of fame. Their achievements have been few and far between. The sooner they are brought face to face with cold facts the better for the nation and the sooner will we begin to ameliorate our now very unfavorable condition.

They all got mad with Henry Ward Beecher for saying "that if Africa was sunk into the Atlantic ocean the civilized world

would not be materially affected." They declared that they would never hear Beecher preach again; they refused to shed a tear when he died. They thought him one of the meanest of men. But examine, if you please, the real facts in the case. Cast aside all bias and prejudice and see if Mr. Beecher fell far below a truthful statement. Take out of Africa today what the white man has done, and what remains? Who has paid our missionaries, built our churches, run our schools, and planned the fundamental basis of our government? Was it white men and women or black men and women? These are hard but stubborn and important facts. They observe one thing among them that must be discouraged—that is, they seem to think that anything will do for Africa. Any kind of food, any kind of cloth, any kind of church, any kind of preacher, any kind of teacher, and any kind of government officer. Such a spirit shows that they are not progressive. A people ablaze with the fire of progress want the best of everything. And, again, they are people given to many pretensions. They like to appear rich and to appear learned. They are also very impatient. As a rule, colored men will not wait long for results; they expect hasty returns. These things are against them. Let them get down to business. They have wasted too much precious time that will tell on the race in later years more forcibly than now.

Men in Liberia have decidedly the advantage of our brethren in America and other countries, where they are handicapped by race prejudice and other evils over which they have no control. But with all the glories of a grand future before them, there are thousands who care no more for the development of the country than the native whose interest never extends beyond his immediate wants.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

THE RACE PROBLEM IN AMERICA.

From time to time one is horrified by the reports of outrages committed upon the persons of Negroes, whose chief offense appears to be that they have the misfortune to be native-born inhabitants of those vast States whose proud boast it has been for more than a century that "all men are born free and equal," with, however, a mental reservation of the blacks.

The race problem of the Southern States at the present time shows itself in one of its acutest forms in South Carolina. That State has lately held a constitutional convention, called to determine the political future of the Negro race. The Negroes over twenty-one years old in South Carolina number 132,949, while the whites over twenty-one are 102,567. The avowed object of the convention is to disfranchise the Negroes under the form of law. Practically they have been disfranchised since 1886, as the whites have kept the Negroes away from the polls by force of terror. They justify that action on the ground that the Negroes are in the majority, and that they will not submit to a Negro majority; but they wish to be freed from the necessity of using force; hence this convention.

The plan they desire to adopt is what is known as the Mississippi plan; that is an evasion of the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and thus far a successful evasion. Those amendments were meant to secure political rights to the emancipated blacks. The fourteenth amendment declares that all persons born in the United States are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside, and it forbids any State to make any law which shall abridge the privileges and immunities of any citizens. The fifteenth amendment declares that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. But South Carolina now proposes to deny the right of registration or of voting to persons who cannot read or write, certain property-holders excepted, or who cannot "understand and explain any clause of the State constitution when read to them by the registration officers." That plainly leaves it in the power of the registration officer to decide what illiterates may vote. It is he who is to judge whether their understanding and explanation are satisfactory. There are about 60,000 illiterate blacks in South Carolina and about 13,000 illiterate whites. The proposed clause is so drawn that whites may be registered and blacks excluded.

The chief engineer of this shameful plan and the leader of the convention is ex-Governor Tillman. His plan not only disfranchises for illiteracy, but will prevent as far as possible the education of the Negro in future. If the Negroes have any political future it must rest with the North to secure it for them, or with

Congress, or with the Supreme Court when these South Carolina and Mississippi laws come before that court, as soon they must. Five of the six Negro delegates appealed to the North through the New York *World*, a journal by no means favorable to their cause, but it printed their appeal. There has been thus far no sign that public feeling in the Northern States is roused against this treatment of the blacks. The Democratic conventions are still protesting against what they called the Force bill of the last administration, which was a bill to insure the purity and freedom of State elections by the help of the Federal authority. True enough there is some degree of sympathy with the Negro, who is robbed of his vote and deprived of his constitutional right to a share in the government of his State; but the dislike to Federal interference in State procedure is paramount. It is probable that the Negro will have to work out his own salvation or remain under white control.

In defense of this unconstitutional action of the South Carolina legislature Mr. Thomas Edmondston wrote a letter to the *Times*, arguing from the experience of some years' residence in that State that the whites were fully justified in the extreme steps they had determined to take in detriment to the Negro majority of the population. He urged: "It was my fortune to reside in South Carolina while that evilly treated State was held in subjection by a colored legislature, and the conditions of life for the white population were becoming so utterly unendurable that the alternative presented to civilized natives of the State was to regain possession of the government or to quit the country in a body. The opportunity of freeing themselves from the negro yoke came in 1876, and the white citizens of the South were not the men to let it go by. Nowhere was the Negro population so well organized or in such overwhelming majority; but the men of the Palmetto State were true to their old traditions. In Gen. Wade Hampton they had a leader—a man at whose command every one of his followers would have been willing to die. The conflict was bitter, but victory was won—at what cost we must not too closely inquire. The supremacy regained in 1875 has been retained for nineteen years, but only by the same methods as were then employed. No South Carolinian dreams of disputing the fact; and, further, he declares that, no matter how much he may in theory disapprove of the methods employed,

the maintenance of white supremacy must be attained at any cost. The State has had ten years' experience of Negro rule, and every white man in it will die rather than submit to a recrudescence of the same. When that contention is openly proclaimed throughout the Southern States and tacitly acquiesced in by the North and West, we need not wonder that a free hand is left to South Carolina in dealing with her domestic franchises. The question may be very simply put in this wise: Is it better to leave nominal political power in the hands of the negro voter, depriving it of all effect by illegal means, or boldly to deprive him of the potentiality of mischief by taking from him the power which he will only abuse? We cannot shut our eyes to facts. It is degrading and demoralizing to a high-spirited race to compel them to resort to tricks and devices because there exists within their borders an alien and inferior race possessing, indeed, the right before the law to equal political privileges with the white population, but incapable of using the franchise for other than evil and corrupt purposes." We ought to wish our kinsmen in South Carolina all good speed in their efforts, since these are directed towards free constitutionalism and not to its reversal. Moreover, the methods of which we have approved in dealing with the electoral privileges of the colored inhabitants of Cape Colony cannot from our own point of view be very far wrong when applied in far milder form to the Negroes of South Carolina.

The publication of this communication soon brought a letter from the bishop of Sierra Leone, who very aptly insisted that there were two sides to this question. The bishop begins by stating that "Having had twelve and a half years' experience as a bishop on the West Coast of Africa, and having only just returned from a special visit to expatriated Africans in the West Indies, I have something to say which does not appear yet to have found expression in the *Times*. It seems to me an extraordinary thing that in all that is said about the impossible situation on the other side of the water, it is constantly lost sight of that these black people were transported thither forcibly and utterly against their will, and that it was only to be expected that an impossible state of things would sooner or later be created. There are two expressions in Mr. Edmondston's letter which appear to me utterly to misstate the case. He ab-

hors the idea of 'Anglo-Saxon blood submitting tamely to the oppression of a horde of savage Negroes.' He also says, 'there happens to exist within their borders an alien and inferior race.' Surely, sir, this is not a correct statement of the case. These American folk did not hesitate to use the labor of the black people without payment until the last war put an end to the bondage; but there are certain points that they must not refuse to consider if they desire to escape the difficulties created by this emancipation. Undoubtedly freedom was given in a sudden moment of enthusiasm and in response to a violent and forcible demand, and it is obvious that full enfranchisement was prematurely afforded. But such methods will not right matters. Two wrongs do not make a right. The determination to keep black people in a state of ignorance so as to exclude them from the right to vote is unworthy and impossible. Lynching is not going to meet the situation either. Both are utterly unworthy methods of bullying a weak and maltreated race. The true solution is repatriation. Why talk of planting British Indians in Africa when so many expatriated Africans will colonize it far more satisfactorily? I admit that Liberia has not been a marked success so far, but I contend that limited repatriation wisely directed can be made a success. Some of the 'back wages' of these black people in America might well be used for this purpose. I believe this would not only solve the labor question now that Africa wants labor for railways, but will keep down the friction now existing by holding out before the African over there a true and noble aspiration."—*The African Times.*

RECENT TRADE OF SIERRA LEONE.

The number of arrivals of United States shipping (all sailing vessels) at Freetown from July 1, 1894, to June 30, 1895, was 9, of the aggregate tonnage of 3,482. The total tonnage of vessels of all nations entered during the year 1894 was 515,700 (mostly steamers), being an increase of 78,881 tons over the previous year.

The number of steam vessels, including coasters, entered during 1894 was 429; sailing vessels, including coasters, 354.

The public revenue for 1894 was £103,694 ($504,575); expenditures, £93,100 ($423,025).

The number of births registered was 1,323; deaths, 2,250. The death rate per 1,000 was 19.86.

The rainfall for 1894 was 141.26 inches.

The imports direct from the United States during the financial year under review were, say, 7,700 barrels of flour, 1,300 barrels of biscuit, 1,056 half hogsheads and 1,056 cases of leaf tobacco, 13,000 cases of kerosene, and 1,150,000,000 feet of lumber. In addition to these are sundries, consisting of cotton cords, cotton duck, rope, hardware, salted and canned provisions, furniture, clocks, oars, spars, Florida water, medicines, organs, lard, butter, cottolene, sewing machines, sugar, rum, etc.

The total declared value of direct imports was, say, $154,000.

As a supplementary report on imports from the United States, I might add that about 1,000 barrels of flour, 300 barrels of biscuit, 100 half hogsheads of tobacco, and 2,000 cases of kerosene reached the colony via Europe and the Canary islands.

The total exports from this colony to the United States direct and via Europe for the same period amounted to $31,000, consisting of bullock hides and horns, ginger, coffee, and kola nuts.

The total value of imports from all sources for the year 1894, £478,024 ($2,326,065), and the total value of exports £426,499 ($2,075,344). The volume of trade for 1894 equaled £904,523 ($4,401,490). The increase in value of imports as compared with the previous year was £60,559 ($294,680), and of exports, £27,835 ($135,445). The volume of increase in 1894 equaled £88,394 ($430,125).

Since my special report to the department on the kola nut, the export has steadily increased, but the movement tends rather to the European than to the American markets. The writer is constantly receiving communications on the subject and feels sanguine that the trade in this useful product bids fair to become developed to a much greater extent at home as the medicinal properties of the article become more familiar by chemical manipulation.

American flour only is used in the colony, and the importation increases year by year. This may also be said of tobacco, lumber, and kerosene, as a matter of course.

There has been no alteration whatever in the customs tariff since my last annual report, but a draft of an ordinance has been published increasing the government tax for licenses from £75

to £100 per annum, and limiting the sale of spirituous liquors in the colony, no dealer to sell more than one case to the same individual. It is not so long ago that the duty was increased by 50 per cent., and it would appear that the government is desirous of reducing the traffic to the lowest possible limit.

Since the governor's recent tour into the interior of the colony and to its boundaries, reported in my dispatch dated May 20, 1895, increased interest is being aroused in the matter of the proposed railway, and it is now a foregone conclusion that this scheme, which is so essential to the future prosperity of the colony, will be carried out by the imperial government.

A school is now in course of erection in Freetown for technical education and training of the natives, to which it is in contemplation to annex a young men's christian association. Funds for this laudable undertaking have been raised partly in England, assisted to a considerable extent by a grant from the local government for building and maintenance.

It is proposed to hold an agricultural exhibition in Freetown early in January, 1896, when prizes will be awarded for the best specimens of native products, such as palm oil, palm kernels, rubber, ginger, coffee, cassava, benne seed, rice copra, cotton, yams, sweet and Irish potatoes, corn, kitchen vegetables, farm and domestic animals, dairy products, poultry, and farming implements, native and foreign. Great hopes are entertained that as a result of this exhibition and others to follow more earnest and far-reaching efforts will be directed to the cultivation of the land and the search for mineral wealth, which, in the too ardent and now profitless pursuit of shopkeeping and street-hawking, has been so lamentably neglected since the foundation of the colony, over a hundred years ago.

There seems to be a probability that in the near future Sierra Leone may become a fairly good customer for American agricultural implements—machinery for hulling coffee and rice, cleaning cotton, and crushing palm kernels; also other labor-saving machinery as industries become more developed and the primitive means of transportation, canoe and head load, are superseded by the iron horse and the steam-launch.

ROBERT P. POOLEY, *Consul.*

FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE, *July 1, 1895.*

ITEMS.

ACTS OF THE LIBERIAN LEGISLATURE—*Session 1894–1895.*—An act to incorporate the National Museum and Library.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That from and after the passage of this act the organization known as the National Museum and Library is hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, and shall be capable in law to receive, hold, and enjoy real and personal estate to the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars.

SEC. II. It is further enacted that the board of trustees of said organization shall have supervision thereof, and shall have power to make rules and regulations for the same, and the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Interior shall *ex officio* be said trustees, with three other persons to be nominated by them at their first meeting, and they shall meet on the first Monday in March, June, September, and December in each year, and at such other times as they may fix for that purpose. The said board shall fill all unofficial vacancies by elections, and shall make annual reports to the Legislature of the condition and needs of said Institution.

SEC. III. It is further enacted that there shall be a secretary, librarian, and curator appointed annually by the board of trustees. They shall have the oversight of the Library and Museum, under the direction of the said board of trustees; and the sum of three hundred and fifty dollars per annum be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for the support of said institution.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 3, 1895.

Joint resolution providing for immigrant receptacles in the several counties.

Whereas there is a manifest disposition on the part of the Negroes of the United States of America to emigrate to Liberia on their own responsibility, and to join us in building up the Republic of Liberia; and whereas recent indications evince the fact that large accessions are likely to arrive in a short period: therefore it is

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That from and immediately after the passage of this resolution the Secretary of the Treasury be, and he is hereby, authorized, under direction of the President, to have suitable immigrant receptacles built in the several counties of the Republic.

SEC. II. That in the county of Montserrado there shall be two receptacles, one at Robertsport, Grand Cape Mount, and the other at such place

as may be most suitable, and the appropriation be twelve hundred dollars. In the county of Grand Bassa there shall be two receptacles, one at Hartford, at a cost of eight hundred dollars, and one at Lower Buchanan, at a cost of eight hundred dollars; and in the county of Sinoe one receptacle, at a cost of one thousand dollars; and in the county of Maryland, in the township of Philadelphia, one receptacle, at a cost of a thousand dollars.

SEC. III. And it is further resolved that on arrival of immigrants into Liberia who are unable to maintain themselves the Government shall render such pecuniary aid as will assist them to support themselves for the first three months after their arrival.

SEC. IV. And it is further resolved that the sum of twelve thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the building of the respective receptacles aforementioned in the several counties and maintenance of immigrants, which shall be proportioned as they may be distributed in the several counties, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to draw, under warrant of the President, for the said sum out of the public treasury from any amounts not otherwise appropriated.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 15, 1895.

Joint resolution authorizing the President to appoint two suitable persons in the counties of Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and Maryland to select suitable places to establish civilized settlements.

It is resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That from and immediately after the passage of this resolution the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to appoint two suitable persons in the counties of Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and Maryland to select suitable places as public reserves in each of the aforesaid counties for the express purpose of establishing civilized settlements.

SEC. II. That upon report of the persons sent out to make selections being submitted to the President, 8,000 acres of land at Mount Coffee, or any land near it in Montserrado county, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated and set apart as a public reserve for the express purpose of establishing a civilized settlement; and when it becomes necessary the President be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to have said land surveyed in twenty-five-acre blocks agreeable to the courses and boundaries of the lands in Crozerville and the district of Careysburg, Montserrado county, and a similar site on the banks of the Little cape, Mount river.

SEC. III. In the county of Grand Bassa 800 acres of land between Little Bassa and the mouth of the Junk river and 800 acres at Gorcor, running towards Zuzoah, be, and the same is hereby, selected and set apart as reserved to establish civilized settlements; that the proper officers of said county instruct the surveyor to lay off a civilized settlement at each of

the above-mentioned places two square miles in town lots, the remainder of said land to be run off in farming lots.

SEC. IV. That Blue Barrow Point, in the county of Sinoe, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated and set apart as a township, to be surveyed in town lots of one quarter of an acre each, and to extend two miles square, running across Wyett creek; said settlement or township to be named Cheesemanville. It is further resolved that a suitable place on the west bank of the Cavalla river, Maryland county, be selected and set apart as public reserve for the express purpose of establishing a civilized settlement, and 3,000 acres of land be, and the same is hereby, appropriated and reserved for said purpose.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 15, 1895.

An act to authorize the citizens of Grand Bassa county to run a tram road through the city of Buchanan and to assist them in accomplishing the same.

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That from and after the passage of this act the citizens of Grand Bassa county or any number of them shall be authorized to organize a joint stock company, to be composed of citizens and foreigners also, if they, the citizens, shall so direct or elect, for the purpose of building a tram road from the southwestern bank of the Benson river, in Upper Buchanan, to run through the city to the public wharf on the sea beach in Lower Buchanan. Said road shall be surveyed at the expense of the county through the most convenient route in the public streets or through private lands, and in all cases in which the road shall run through private lands such lands shall be used as eminent domain, and the county shall pay the owner or owners for the injuries that may be sustained by the road passing through their lands.

SEC. II. The stock of the company shall be divided into equal shares not exceeding one hundred dollars each, but a member may take as many shares as may be allowed by the company, and each member shall have a vote for each share he shall take. The members shall have equal rights to the road, rails, rolling stock, building materials, buildings, and the property belonging to the joint stock company, according to the amount of capital invested in such stock by each member.

SEC. III. The rolling stock and all materials imported for building purposes and all goods, wares, and merchandise imported for the purpose of paying labor in building the road shall be free from import duties.

SEC. IV. It is further enacted that as soon as the company shall be organized and shall have raised three thousand dollars for the purpose of building the roads, and shall have obtained a charter, they shall have the right to obtain from the county government the sum of five thousand dollars to assist them in building the road, the county obtaining thereby

the right to as many shares as it shall put in the stock, and shall exercise those rights by and through the superintendent of the county, county attorney, and members of the legislature, who shall be members of the company by virtue of their offices as long as the county shall keep stock therein, and in all cases in which stockholders shall desire to sell their shares the county government shall have the right to buy them.

SEC. V. That in order to assess the injuries that may be done to private lands, or sustained by the owners of lands through which the road shall pass, each party shall have the right to appoint two men who shall act as arbitrators, and the said arbitrators shall assess the injury.

Any laws conflicting with this act are hereby repealed.

Approved January 15, 1895.

An act amendatory and supplementary to an act entitled "An act encouraging mining in the Republic of Liberia."

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That from and immediately after the passage of this act the President be and he is hereby authorized to appoint special commissioners in the several counties of this Republic, whose duty shall be to prospect for gold, silver, copper, coal, or other valuable minerals on any of the public domains of this Republic. Said commissioners shall be allowed three dollars per day for their services and one thousand dollars for the discovery of a gold mine and five hundred dollars for a silver, copper, or coal mine.

SEC. II. It is further enacted that the said commissioners shall be allowed five able-bodied men, who shall be paid one dollar per day and the usual rations as is provided by law for soldiers in actual service, and ten native carriers, who shall be allowed four dollars per month and rations. The above-mentioned men shall be required to make excavations and do all other fatigue duties that may be required of them under the directions of the said commissioners. The Government shall furnish all necessary tools and acids for the successful carrying out of this act.

SEC. III. It is further enacted that the commissioners shall be allowed forty-five days to make the necessary researches and to make their returns within the above-stated time to the President in Montserrado county and to the superintendents of the several leeward counties and of this Republic, and to report any and all minerals or other valuable deposits found by the said commissioners, which deposits shall be the property of the Government.

SEC. IV. It is further enacted that said commissioners shall, before entering upon the duties before stated in this act, be required to take oath for the faithful performance of their duties and that they will make a true and correct return of all valuable mineral deposits found by them, and if it shall be found that they have withheld any information with regard to such mineral deposits so discovered by them, they shall be deemed guilty

of fraud, and, upon conviction before any court of competent jurisdiction, shall be punished by fine and imprisonment according to the magnitude of the case.

SEC. V. It is further enacted that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent any citizens forming themselves into companies for the purpose of making researches or discoveries, and upon proof made to the proper officers of Government as named in section 3 of this act they shall be entitled to the same reward as the special commissioners.

SEC. VI. It is further enacted that section 6 of an act approved January 3, 1869, be so amended as to read that the said company or miners shall be entitled to and receive three-fifths of the net proceeds of any and all mineral deposits discovered by them on any of the public domain, and shall have the exclusive right of leasing one hundred acres of land adjacent to that on which said mine or mines or mineral deposits have been discovered by them.

Any law or parts of laws militating against this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved January 15, 1895.

An act providing for a Liberian common school-reader.

Whereas it is expedient that there should be provided a series of Liberian common-school readers designed for the special instruction of Liberian youths; and whereas the books now used in our common schools of learning are altogether of a foreign character and not suitable in every way to rightly impart to Liberian children that spirit of national pride and patriotism peculiar to the circumstances of this Negro republican Government: Therefore

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That immediately after the passage of this act the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to engage some efficient persons (not to exceed three in all) to collect facts and prepare the manuscripts in a clear and legible style for a common-school reader which shall be suitable for study in the common schools of Liberia, embracing lessons upon the origin, growth, and development of the Republic, the good and praiseworthy traits and deeds of the fathers and heroes of Liberia, the climatic conditions of the country, the several military campaigns, and upon other important subjects calculated to interest and enlighten the minds of the growing youths of Liberia.

SEC. II. And it is further enacted that the declaration of Liberia's national independence, bill of rights, constitution of Liberia, Liberia's national hymn, and list of Presidents and Vice-Presidents shall be included in such reader.

SEC. III. And it is further enacted that the topics treated upon in said reader shall be divided into suitable chapters or lessons, and said lessons proportioned into sections.

SEC. IV. And it is further enacted that the Secretary of the Treasury, acting under instruction of the President, shall enter into an arrangement with some foreign printing company to have two thousand copies of said reader printed and bound in durable style.

SEC. V. And it is further enacted that the name of said book shall be the "Liberian Common-school Reader," and each shall be numbered consecutively.

SEC. VI. And it is further enacted that, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this act, the sum of three thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby, appropriated, and the Secretary of the Treasury, under warrant of the President, is authorized to draw for the same.

SEC. VII. And it is further enacted that on receipt of said readers by the Secretary of the Treasury he shall immediately proportion and transmit them to the several subtreasurers of Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Sinoe, and Maryland counties, with price of actual cost with expenses, to be by them disposed of for coin and returns made to the Secretary of the Treasury.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Approved January 17, 1895.

An act to increase the revenue of this Republic.

Whereas it is apparent that the revenue of this Republic is by far insufficient to meet the demands now made upon it, which demands in their nature are legal; and whereas it should not be the policy of any government to depend entirely upon the revenue accruing from import and export duties as the only means of support; and whereas the useless expenditure of moneys yearly for boarding prisoners has proven to be abortive and of no benefit to the Government; and whereas a Government farm, if commenced in each county of the Republic, will be an auxiliary to the finances and thereby secure to the Government a large revenue: Therefore

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

SECTION I. That from and immediately after the passage of this act the President be, and he is hereby, authorized to have surveyed in each county of this Republic two hundred acres of land not otherwise appropriated, to be denominated Government farms and State prisons.

SEC. II. It is further enacted that the superintendents and their councils of the several counties of this Republic, acting under authority of the President, shall designate to the surveyor or surveyors such land or lands suitable to be surveyed and have built thereon, as soon thereafter as possible, houses of sufficient sizes to accommodate such laborers as may be employed in prison, workshop, and guard-room.

SEC. III. It is further enacted that the farms aforesaid shall be under the immediate direction and control of the Secretary of the Treasury, who shall instruct the several superintendents and require them to carry into

effect such rules and regulations as may from time to time be submitted to them for the better working and government of said farm or farms, and report their doings in detail to the Legislature of this Republic at each session.

SEC. IV. It is further enacted that to each farm there shall be one overseer and as many assistants as the exigencies of the case from time to time may demand, whose duty it shall be to see that a system of agriculture be enforced, by the growth of coffee, cocoa, and all other products of the soil, calculated to increase the revenue of this Republic. He, the said overseer, shall be required to keep a systematic account of his doings on said farm and make a quarterly report of the same to the superintendent, specifying the quantity of coffee, cocoa, and all other articles on hand ready for export. He shall further be required to forward to the superintendent all produce ready for market and take a receipt in duplicate for the same, one to keep as his voucher and the other to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury. The salary of said overseer or overseers shall be two hundred and fifty dollars. They shall receive their pay in common with all other officers of the Government.

SEC. V. It is further enacted that each overseer, before entering upon the duties of his office, shall give a bond of $1,000, to be approved by the superintendent of the county.

SEC. VI. It is further enacted that it shall be embezzlement for any overseer to exchange, barter, or sell any of the products of said farms or in any way convert the same to his or their use; upon proof thereof he shall be answerable before any court of competent jurisdiction to try such offense within this Republic.

SEC. VII. It is further enacted that the superintendents of the several counties shall ship all coffee, chocolate, or cocoa and all other articles of export that may be produced on said farm or farms, and receive therefor in return gold or silver coin. Said gold coin shall be paid immediately into the several subtreasuries of this Republic on receipt from the subtreasurers, one to serve as his or their voucher and the other to be forwarded to the Secretary of the Treasury. It shall further be the duty of the several superintendents to keep a separate and distinct account in detail of all transactions of said farm in a businesslike form, showing a statement of the total outlay of money expended, liabilities, if any, and the gain or loss in said enterprise, and on failure to comply with these directions, the said superintendent shall be immediately removed from office and held answerable to any court having jurisdiction of the offense.

SEC. VIII. It is further enacted that all prisoners sentenced to penal servitude by the several courts in each county having jurisdiction thereof shall be immediately sent by the superintendents to the said farm or farms and thereby undergo the sentence of the law. Hours of labor shall be from 6 to 11 a. m. and from 1 to 4 p. m. each day.

SEC. IX. It is further enacted that all persons sentenced to penal servitude by the several courts in each county of this Republic, who are me-

chanics of any kind, shall be required to work at their respective crafts at said institution, and all of the proceeds of such work shall be for the use of the institution, provided the articles be such as are needed; otherwise they are to be sold and the proceeds go to assist in bearing its expenses, and in all cases the object shall be to make the institution self-supporting.

SEC. X. It is further enacted that the sum of $12,000 be, and the same is hereby, appropriated to carry into effect and completion the requisition of this act, and the President be and is hereby authorized to cause the Secretary of the Treasury to draw for said amount out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and in no case shall the buildings erected under this act be conducted in any other way than by the law governing public work.

Any and all laws militating or conflicting with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

Approved January 17, 1895.

BLOCKADE OF LIBERIAN PORTS.—The *Nubia*, which has arrived at Liverpool from West Africa, reports that owing to continued disturbances at Cavally, on the boundary between the French Ivory Coast settlement and the Liberian Native Republic's territory at Cape Palmas, a force of French troops had been sent to restore order. The Cape Palmas people had fortified several towns on the eastern bank of the Cavally river, and with the Half-Cavally people, who refused to accept the rule of the Liberians, were continually fighting in French territory. The French administrator at Tabou sent a communication telling the natives to remove the fortified towns and not to molest any one in the French territory. This they refused to do, and killed two women at a place called Hydia. The administrator then sent to Grand Bassam, the headquarters of the French on the Ivory Coast, and a regiment of Senegalese troops with four white officers was despatched. They forced the Liberians to evacuate the fortified towns, and subsequently established posts along the eastern bank of the Cavally. The French then issued a proclamation warning all parties to keep peace both in the river and in French territory. President Cheeseman, of Liberia, issued a proclamation blockading Settra Kroo, Krobar, Little Kroo, Nana Kroo, King Will's Town, and other towns adjacent thereto belonging to the Kroo tribe living to the south of Greenville, in Sinoe county, who are subjects of Liberia, on the ground that the inhabitants refused to conform to the revenue laws, which required importers and exporters to pay import and export duties.—*London Times.*

AFRICAN AND ARABIAN COFFEE.—Coffee is the principal article of export from Aden to the United States. There are two countries that furnish this coffee, Abyssinia, in Africa, and the province of Yemen, in Arabia. The Abyssinian coffee is brought from that country by camels through

Somali Land, and from thence by boats to this place. From the reports the natives bring from that country it would seem that all the coffee brought from Abyssinia grows wild, yet the grains are as large as, if not larger, than the cultivated coffee of Arabia and its flavor is excellent. With the soil of that country producing such magnificent coffee without cultivation, we may naturally expect the natives will soon turn their attention to the proper cultivation of this plant, when remarkable results may be expected.

The province of Yemen, in Arabia, is the natural home of the coffee plant, as it was here its use was first made, and from that day until the present the coffee of Yemen has been in greater demand than that of any other country, for of all the different kinds produced the far-famed Mocha is considered the best. Because of the fact that no travelers are allowed in the interior of the country, no information of the cultivation of this plant can be obtained, except from the Arab caravans that bring the coffee to market, and these reports are not very reliable; but, unlike the Abyssinian coffee, all the Arabian coffee is cultivated.

The greater portion of the coffee brought to this place is in the pod. The pod is removed by passing the coffee between two revolving stones, thus breaking, or crushing rather, the shells. Women are then employed to clean and sort the coffee, the best of which is exported, the inferior grains and the pods being sold to and used by the Arabs for their own use. A bag of coffee for export weighs 160 pounds, and the average cost price, put down in the port of New York, is about 25 cents per pound.—*U. S. Consular Report, January, 1896.*

According to the latest census the number of white people in the Congo Free State on January 1, 1895, was 1,076. As might be expected, the Belgians outnumber all other nationalities, their exact number being 691. Next in order are the English, Portuguese, and Swedes or Norwegians. Each of these nationalities is represented by 75 persons. Next come the French, numbering 50; the Americans, 28; Italians, 21; Dutch, 16; Danes, 14; Germans, 12, and Spaniards, 4, while there is 1 Austrian subject, and 14 are not classified. No distinction as to sex is made in the returns, but it is safe to assume that the European population is almost wholly male. A detailed examination of the returns throws some curious side lights on national characteristics. All the 75 Portuguese, for example, are found in the more settled parts near the mouth of the river in the neighborhood of Banana, Boma, and Matadi, while of the Englishmen less than a third are in these readily accessible regions, the remainder being scattered over all parts of the interior. No information is given as to the employment of the various nationalities, but the Danes are almost all employed as captains of the steamers plying on the Congo, and they all speak English, and all their orders are given in English to their native crews, a testimony to the hold the English language has got in West Coast of Africa.—*The African Times.*

In a friendly criticism we adverted some time ago to what we termed a disastrous top-heaviness in the machinery of the Liberian Government as at present constituted. Recent intelligence from Liberia would seem to verify our remarks. The two gunboats with which the Liberian Government has supplied itself threaten to become white elephants on its hands, and an attempt is now to be made to convert them into passenger ships between Liberian ports. The long and short of the matter is, the Liberians have no right to be warring with their aboriginal brethren and with whom they should live upon terms of the most cordial intimacy and friendship, and until this is done Liberia's progress must always be in a circle.—*The Lagos Weekly Record.*

There are 3,743 members and probationers in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Africa. In Liberia there are 3,260. In Bishop Taylor's missions there are 483, of which 86 are in Angola, 14 on the Congo, and 383 in Liberia. The 383 are distributed as follows: Beaboo, 22; Barraka, 29: Brooks, 29; Garraway, 28; Grand Sess, 75; Sass Town, 200.

The report comes that ere long the Congo Free State is to become in full form what from the first it has been in fact, a colony of Belgium—that is, the little kingdom of 11,400 square miles and something over 6,000,000 inhabitants is to rule and undertake to civilize the Congo basin, containing 1,000,000 square miles and a population, say, of 25,000,000. Though the right to do this may be hard to define, yet the result is almost certain to be for the benefit of mankind.—*The Missionary Review.*

Civilization.—Many definitions of this word have been made, from that of the Turk drinking champagne, who remarked about it that "after all, civilization is very nice," up to the most elaborate combinations of art and science. Civilization really means simply the art of living in a community, or the checks and counter-checks, the divisions of labor, and the conveniences that arise from common action when a group of men live in close relation to each other. This will, perhaps, be objected to as including all, or nearly all, mankind in its scope. Quite true; all civilization is relative and not absolute. We shall avoid much confusion if we distinguish high and low types of civilization, and also perfect and imperfect civilization. Like organisms, we may have a low type of civilization very perfect in its structure, capable of endless continuance, and of great shocks without much injury. Such are some of the civilizations of the African races who have great orderliness and cleanliness of arrangement and are capable of active recuperation after warfare without any internal elements of instability. Again, some low types are very imperfect and can exist only by destruction of others, while any severe shock destroys their polity. The government which only exists by raids and plunder, such as that of the Zulus, illustrates this. Turning to high types of civilization, we may see them perfect or imperfect. Countries of financial

stability, not undergoing any rapid organic changes, are the more perfect in type, while those deeply in debt and in continual revolution have but imperfect civilization, of however high a type it may be.

The foremost principle which should be always in view is that the civilization of any race is not a system which can be changed at will. Every civilization is the growing product of a very complex set of conditions, depending on race and character, on climate, on trade, and every minutia of the circumstances. To attempt to alter such a system apart from its conditions is impossible. No change is legitimate or beneficial to the real character of a people except what flows from conviction and the natural growth of the mind; and if the imposition of a foreign system is injurious, how miserable is the forcing of a system such as ours, which is the most complex, unnatural, and artificial that has been known—a system developed in a cold country, amid one of the hardest, least sympathetic, and most self-denying and calculating of all peoples of the world. The result is death. We make a dead-house and call it civilization. Scarcely a single race can bear the contact and the burden. And then we talk complacently about the mysterious decay of savages before white men. Let us turn now to our attempts on a higher race, the degenerated and Arabized descendants of a great people, the Egyptians. Here there is much ability to work on, and also a good standard of comfort and morality, comformable to our notion. Yet the planting of another civilization is scarcely to be borne by them. The Europeanized Egyptian is in most cases the mere blotting-paper of civilization, absorbing what is most superficial and undesirable. Yet some will say why not plant all we can? What can be the harm of raising the intellect in some cases if we cannot do it in all? The harm is that you manufacture idiots. Some of the peasantry are taught to read and write, and the result of this burden which their fathers bore not is that they become fools. I cannot say this too plainly; an Egyptian who has had reading and writing thrust on him is, in every case that I have met with, half-witted, silly, or incapable of taking care of himself. His intellect and his health have been undermined and crippled by the forcing of education. With the Copt this is quite different; his fathers have been scribes for thousands of years, and his capacity is far greater, so that he can receive much more without deterioration. Observation of these people leads to the view that the average man cannot receive much more knowledge than his immediate ancestors. What, then, it may be asked, can be done to elevate other races? How can we benefit them? Most certainly not by Europeanizing them. By real education, leading out the mind to a natural and solid growth, much can be done; but not by enforcing a mass of accomplishments and artificialities of life. Our bigoted belief in reading and writing is not in the least justified when we look at the mass of mankind. The exquisite art and noble architecture of Mykenæ, the undying song of Homer, the extensive trade of the Bronze Age, all belong to people who never read or wrote.

The great essentials of a valuable character—moderation, justice, sympathy, politeness, and consideration, quick observation, shrewdness, ability to prearrange, a keen sense of the uses and properties of things—all these are the qualities on which I value my Egyptian friends, and such qualities are what should be evolved by any education worth the name. The greatest educational influence, however, is example. This is obvious when we see how rapidly the curses of our civilization spread among those unhappily subjected to it. The contact of Europeans with lower races is almost always a detriment, and it is the severest reflection on ourselves that such should be the case. It is a subject which has given much room for thought in my own dealings with the Egyptian peasant to consider how this deleterious effect is produced and how it is to be avoided. First, it is due to carelessness in leaving temptations open to natives which may be no temptations to ourselves. To be careless about sixpences is as demoralizing to them as a man who tossed sovereigns about the street would be to us. If a man or a government defrauds, it is but natural to the sufferer to try and recompence himself by any means available, and thus an interminable system of reprisals is set up. Such is the chronic state of the East at present among the more civilized races. The Egyptians are notorious for their avarice and are usually credited with being inveterate money-grabbers; yet no sooner do they find that this system of reprisals is abandoned and strict justice maintained than they at once respond to it; and when confidence has once been gained it is almost as common to find a man dispute an account against his own interest as for himself, and scarcely ever is any attempt made at false statements or impositions. Such is the healthy response to straightforward dealing with them. It is the business of anthropology to step in and make a knowledge of other civilizations a part of all decent education. Neither histories nor travels are wanted for this purpose, but a selection of the literature which shall most illustrate the social life and frame of the community, with full explanation and illustrations. We need not to excite wonder, astonishment, or disgust, but rather to enable the reader to realize the daily life and to live in the very minds of the people. Where no literature is available, a vivid study of the nature of the practical working of their civilization should take its place.—*Prof. Flinders Petrie.*

THE "LIVINGSTONIA PRINTING-PRESS" has a common-place sound and might refer to an ordinary printing-press anywhere within the precincts of civilization. In reality it is something quite extraordinary and absolutely new on the face of God's earth. It is the name of a complete printing plant, with facilities for stereotyping and producing illustrations, which has just been established at Livingstonia, in connection with the Free Church of Scotland mission in Nyasaland, British Central Africa. They will soon be printing illustrated Christian tracts and books on the southern shores of that great interior lake of Africa.—*The Church at Home and Abroad.*

Mr. J. C. Stevens, who has been in Liberia about two years, is an industrious, well-educated young man, and has shown much interest in the affairs of our country. He is well posted in the advanced methods of teaching and always delights to give the public schools the benefit of his information. He contemplates visiting soon the various schools of the country in order to awaken, if possible, new energies in the educational work. Nothing is more needed in the public schools of this country than methodical instruction and a good supply of school books. Mr. Stevens has on hand a large stock of the latest and most improved books and will sell the same at the lowest possible price. Parents would do well to purchase such books and place the same in the hands of their children instead of the old works that have long since gone out of date. The old blue-back spelling book is many years behind the times. In addition to his other duties, Mr. Stevens is preparing a series of common-school readers for the public schools of Liberia. Let us wake up to the educational interests of the country.—*The Liberia Gazette.*

It is one of the saddest results of our boasted civilization that the black man cannot endure it. The fact is, we need Christianizing. We should have a better chance of establishing the principle of brotherhood between alien races and ourselves if we paid more attention to the New Testament than to consular reports and stock and share lists, and if we sent out to "savage races" men of the type of David Livingstone rather than of the type of Cecil Rhodes.—*The New Age.*

The Nyasa Country.—A missionary of the Free Church of Scotland reports that the British administration, under the direction of Commissioner Johnston, has been successful in the suppression of the slavers on Lake Nyasa. It is now illegal to introduce European liquors into British Central Africa. This missionary speaks of looking from a watchtower on the banks of the Shiré river, and as far as the eye could reach there were to be seen "cornfields and peaceful native villages where a few years ago was the center of the slave trade." There are now seventeen steamers on the lake and the river, in place of the four of five years ago.—*The Missionary Herald.*

A Gift from Africa.—Unless the claims made for it are very extravagant, the farmers of the semi-arid regions of the West have found a "bonanza" and a boon in Kaffir corn, so called from the Kaffir country in Africa, whence it came. It is reported that many thousand acres of this grain were planted in the Southwest this year, where the drouth had destroyed other crops, and that there was an abundant yield of fodder and grain. It makes excellent stock feed, meal and flour, and delicious popcorn. It will grow in spite of heat and drouth, and may be the salvation of the broad plains, which are too dry for any of our own cereals.—*Christian Standard.*

THE POLITICAL DIVISIONS OF AFRICA

(EUROPEAN TREATIES).

By E. G. Ravenstein.

Scale—1 : 40,000,000 (628 m. = 1 inch).

English Miles.

0 500 1000

——— *Boundaries agreed upon by conterminous Powers.*

- - - - - - *Other Boundaries described in Treaties, &c.*

..... *Boundaries laid down independently of Agreements between European Powers.*

LIST OF TREATIES, CONVENTIONS, AGREEMENTS, &c., REFERRED TO IN THIS MAP.

Treaties, &c., between Great Britain and Foreign States.

1814. *May 30.* Treaty of Paris (Cape, Mauritius).
1862. *June 28.* France (Sierra Leone). Not ratified
1884. *Feb. 27.* South African Republic.
Sept. 22. German Empire (S.-W. Africa).
1885. *May 7.* German Empire (Camarons).
1886. *July .* German Empire (Gold Coast).
Aug. 2. German Empire (Camarons).
Oct. 29 & Nov. 1. German Empire (East Africa).
1887. *May 13.* Italy (Red Sea).
—— France (Somali Coast).
Nov. 11. Liberia.
1888. *Feb. 1.* France (Somaliland).
Nov. 11. Germ. Emp (Gold Coast, neutral zone).
June 20. S. African Rep. (New Republic ceded).
1889. *Aug. 10.* France (Gambia, Sierra Leone, Guinea).
1890. *July 1.* German Empire (Gold Coast, Rio del Rey, S.-W and East Africa).
Aug. 2. S. African Rep. ('Little' Republic ceded).
Aug. 5. France (Niger Territories).
Aug. 20. Portugal (Mozambique) not ratified.
Sept. 14. Portugal (modus vivendi).
1891. *March 14.* Italy (Somaliland).
1891. *April 15.* Italy (Egyptian Sudan).
May 28. Portugal (Mozambique).
1893. *April 14.* German Empire (Rio del Rey).
May 31. Portugal (Zambesi).
July 13. France (Gold Coast).
July 25. German Empire (East Africa).

Treaties, &c., between Foreign Powers.

1778. *March 24.* Spain and Portugal (Fern. Po and Annobom).
1869. Portugal and S. African Rep.
1884. *Nov. 8.* Germany and Congo State.
1885. *Feb. 5.* France and Congo State.
Feb. 14. Portugal and Congo State.
Aug. 1. Declaration of Neutrality by Congo State.
Nov. 22. France & Congo State (Lower Congo).
Dec. 24. France and German Empire.
1886. *May 12.* France and Portugal.
France and Spain (Sahara).
Dec. 30. German Empire and Portugal.
1887. *Ap. 29.* France & Congo State (Ubangi to 4° N.)
1890. France and Spain (Corisco).
1891. *May 25.* Portugal and Congo State (Lunda).
1892. *Jan.* France & Congo State (project only).
,, France and Liberia.
1893. *Nov. 12.* S. African Republic (Swaziland).
Nov. 15. German Empire (Benue).
1894. *March 15.* France & Germany.
March 24. Portugal & Congo State.
May 5. Italy (Somaliland).
May 12. Congo State (Upper Nile & Congo).

W. BLACKWOOD & SON.

G. Philip & Son.